

**December 10, 2017**

**A reading from Isaiah**

**All Services**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

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surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

**The word of the Lord.**

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READING: Psalm 85

Early Service Only

**“We will read the Psalm responsively.”**

**L: <sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

C: <sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin. <sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**L: <sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

C: <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**L: <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

C: <sup>11</sup>Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**L: <sup>12</sup>The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

C: <sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.