MESSAGE OUTLINE

Come and Save Us: Joy Hear us, Shepherd of Israel...Awaken your might; come and save us. Psalm 80:1–3 (NIV)

Isaiah 40:1–11 (NIV)

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.
¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

1. Comforted and close.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God... and carries them close to his heart;

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep... the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. John 10:2-3

2. Raised up and made low.

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. Luke 1:26–55 (NIV)

3. Rejoice with a shout. *lift up your voice with a shout,*

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" *Luke 1:41-45 (NIV)*