

CVPC DAILY DEVOTIONAL - March 26th

Bible Reading: Isaiah 40

Isaiah 40 New International Version (NIV)

Comfort for God's People

40 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^[a];
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.^[b]

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."

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,^[c]
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.

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

¹³ Who can fathom the Spirit^[d] of the LORD,
or instruct the LORD as his counselor?

¹⁴ Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge,
or showed him the path of understanding?

¹⁵ Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

¹⁶ Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

¹⁷ Before him all the nations are as nothing;
they are regarded by him as worthless
and less than nothing.

¹⁸ With whom, then, will you compare God?
To what image will you liken him?

¹⁹ As for an idol, a metalworker casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and fashions silver chains for it.

²⁰ A person too poor to present such an offering
selects wood that will not rot;
they look for a skilled worker
to set up an idol that will not topple.

²¹ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

²² He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

²³ He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

²⁴ No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,

no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

²⁵ “To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob?
Why do you say, Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Footnotes:

1. Isaiah 40:3 Or *A voice of one calling in the wilderness*: / “*Prepare the way for the Lord*”
2. Isaiah 40:3 Hebrew; Septuagint *make straight the paths of our God*
3. Isaiah 40:9 Or *Zion, bringer of good news*, / *go up on a high mountain*. / *Jerusalem, bringer of good news*
4. Isaiah 40:13 Or *mind*

Devotion & Questions (From 'New Morning Mercies' by P.D.Tripp)

MARCH 26

Today you'll encounter things that will confuse you, but rest assured the One who rules all those things is not confused.

We really don't know much. Every day we are all greeted with mysteries. None of us can predict for sure where our personal stories are going. We are all confused about what happens to us, to those close to us, and in the world in which we live. As much as we try to make sense of our lives, there are things that we simply aren't able to understand. Here's what all of this means—you and I will never find inner peace and rest by trying to figure it all out. Peace is found in resting in the wisdom and grace of the One who has it all figured out and rules it all for his glory and our good.

When our children were very young, when I would refuse to let them do something, they didn't understand why, so they would begin to protest. I would then get down on my knees so we could be face to face, and then I would talk with them. The conversation would go like this:

"Do you know that your daddy loves you?"

"Yes, I know my daddy loves me."

"Is your daddy mean and bad to you?"

"No, you don't like to be mean."

"Is your daddy a horrible, bad daddy?"

"No."

"Then listen to what daddy is going to say. I would like to tell you why I had to say 'no' to what you wanted to do, but I can't. If I explained it to you, you wouldn't understand anyway, so here's what you need to do. You need to walk down the hallway and say to yourself, 'I don't know why daddy said no to me, but I know my daddy loves me and I'm going to trust my daddy.' I really do love you."

"I love you too."

There is so much that we don't understand. There is so much that we are incapable of understanding. So rest is found in trusting the Father. He is not confused, and he surely does have your best interest in mind. Yes, he will ask you to do hard things and he will bring difficult things your way, but he is worthy of your trust and he loves you dearly. Today your heavenly Father reaches down to you and says: "I know you don't understand all that you face, but remember, I love you. Trust me and you will find peace that can be found no other way."

Devotion Questions

What are some of the things you haven't been able to control (or understand!) this week?

What things remind you that you can trust that God is in control?

What things remind you that God loves you?

Praise God that he know what's best for us and calls us to trust in Him whatever our situation.

Breakfast Psalm: Psalm 24

Evening Psalm/Reading: Psalm 93

Prayer Points & Church Family Members to pray for:

Gooding Family (Tracy, Brayden, Katelyn, Marissa, and Cody) - Biloela

Libby Haswell - Biloela

Greg Holzhauser - Biloela

Jansen Family (Bernard, Esther, Noah, Isaac and Caleb) – Emerald

Amanda Lablack - Emerald

Les and Val Hotz (Monto Church Family)

John Semgreen (Jambin Church Family)

Pray for those in our congregations who are most at risk with the COVID-19 epidemic.

Pray for churches across our nation as we are unable to meet in public gatherings for now.

Pray for missionaries around the world and whatever situations they find themselves in this week.

Pray for those who work in the banking and finance sector of our community.

Continue to pray for Heather Wills from our Biloela congregation who has been quite unwell.