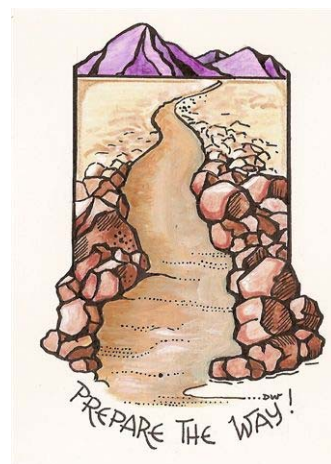


# Children's Liturgy Resource

## Advent Week 2 Year B

### God's Comforting Love



Artwork by Dorothy Woodward rsj

### **Thematic Integrated Resource Kit** **This Resource Kit includes the following:**

**Classroom Prayer & Rituals** - simple prayer suggestions and rituals around the theme for use in the classroom setting, to help integrate the theme in the children's life experience.

**School Assembly Resources** - prayers, rituals and music to integrate the liturgical theme into school assemblies.

**Staff Prayer & Ritual** - brief prayer rituals around the theme for staff prayer.

**Liturgy Resources** - for all aspects of the liturgy, including prayers, rituals, homily notes, music and art.

**A Word To Take Home-** inspirational messages for the school newsletter to help integrate the theme at home.  
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### **Classroom Prayer & Ritual** **God's Comforting Love**

*The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 2 Year B*

**Duration:** 20 mins

**Preparation:**

Set up a sacred prayer space in the room using Advent-coloured fabric, as per Advent Week 1 Year B - TIRK. Add to this sacred space a bowl of Holy Water and a sprig of greenery for the blessing of the children.

**Prayer Ritual:**

When all the children are settled, the Prayer Leader recalls with them last week's ritual. S/he directs them to focus on the first and second Advent candles in the Advent Wreath. As the candles are lit the following is said:

**Leader:** May the Advent light fill us with God's blessing.

**All:** May the Advent light fill us with God's blessing.

**Leader:** May the Advent light guide us on our way of love.

**All:** May the Advent light guide us on our way of love.

The Prayer Leader then directs the children to focus on their Advent Prayer Intention Display board and invites the children to place their hand upon their heart and pray silently for their specific intention. (See Advent Week 1 Year B – TIRK)

**Scripture Focus: Isaiah 40: 1; 3-5 ; 9; 11**

*“O comfort my people, comfort them...”*

Following this, a child comes forward and proclaims the text from Isaiah. Throughout the reading, at various intervals as indicated below, the community responds with the refrain **Comfort my people, comfort them.**

Have the reader proclaim this refrain at the end of the following verses, and raise her/his hand for all the children to repeat the refrain.

Verses for the refrain: The end of verse 1, 3, 5, 9, 11

After a moment or two of quiet reflection, the group are invited to respond to the reading by singing, ***Fill Every Valley*** (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy).

The Prayer Leader reflects with the group about the reading and God’s call to each of us to be the comfort of God for one another. Highlight the imagery from the reading of the tenderness of the shepherd. Talk with the children about the call to each of us to bring this tender love and care of God to each other. Invite them to name practical ways that they can do this for one another, for their family and friends, and especially for those in need.

Having done so, invite the children to pray the following prayer together.

**Prayer Leader: God calls us during this time of Advent to bring God’s comforting love to one another...**

**To those who are sad and lonely, God calls to us...**

**All: Comfort my people, comfort them.**

**Prayer Leader: To those who are bullied and teased, God calls to us...**

**All: Comfort my people, comfort them.**

**Prayer Leader: To those who are different and left out, God calls to us...**

**All: Comfort my people, comfort them.**

**Prayer Leader: To those who are troubled and worried, God calls to us....**

**All: Comfort my people, comfort them.**

**Prayer Leader: To those who reach out and are in need, God calls to us...**

**All: Comfort my people, comfort them.**

**Prayer Leader: To those who grieve and miss their loved ones, God calls to us...**

**All: Comfort my people, comfort them.**

**Conclusion:**

The Prayer Leader then takes up some Holy Water and blesses the children saying, **May you be blessed in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,** (the children make the sign of the cross) **as you strive throughout this Advent journey to be the comforting love of God for all who are in need.**

**All: Amen.**

Conclude by singing together, ***Come Gather Children*** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)

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**For more classroom prayers, meditations and rituals, please see the menu selection on the Home Page of this site.**

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## School Assembly God's Comforting Love

*The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 2 Year B*

**Duration: 10mins**

**Preparation:**

Set up a sacred prayer space in the room using Advent-coloured fabric, as per Advent Week 1 Year B - TIRK. Add to this sacred space a bowl of Holy Water and a sprig of greenery for the blessing of the community.

**Prayer Ritual:**

When the community is settled, the Prayer Leader welcomes all and recalls with them last week's ritual. S/he directs them to focus on the first and second Advent candles in the Advent Wreath. As the candles are lit the following is said:

**Leader:** May the Advent light fill us with God's blessing.  
**All:** May the Advent light fill us with God's blessing.  
**Leader:** May the Advent light guide us on our way of love.  
**All:** May the Advent light guide us on our way of love.

**Scripture Focus: Isaiah 40: 1; 3-5 ; 9; 11**

*"O comfort my people, comfort them..."*

Following this, a child comes forward and proclaims the text from Isaiah. Throughout the reading, at various intervals as indicated below, the community responds with the refrain;

**Comfort my people, comfort them.**

Have the reader proclaim this refrain at the end of the following verses, and raise her/his hand for the community to repeat the refrain.

Verses for the refrain: The end of verse 1, 3, 5, 9, 11

After a moment or two of quiet reflection, the Prayer Leader reflects with the group about the reading and God's call to each of us to be the comfort of God for one another. Highlight the imagery from the reading of the tenderness of the shepherd. Talk with the community about the call to each of us to bring this tender love and care of God to each other. Invite them to name practical ways that they can do this for one another, for their family and friends, and especially for those in need.

Following this, several students come forward to read the following prayers.

Have some students present mime freeze images for each of the prayers.

**Prayer Leader:** God calls us to bring God's comforting love to one another. Let us pray now that we can respond to God's call in a special way during these days of Advent.

**Reader:** To those who are sad and lonely, God calls to us...

(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who are bullied and teased, God calls to us...

(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who are different and left out, God calls to us...

(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who are troubled and worried, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who reach out and are in need, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who grieve and miss their loved ones, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Conclusion:**

The Prayer Leader then takes up some Holy Water and moves out and blesses the community saying;

**May you be blessed in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,** (the children make the sign of the cross) **as you strive throughout this Advent journey to be the comforting love of God for all who are in need.**

**All: Amen.**

Accompany this blessing with the singing of, ***Come Gather Children*** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near).

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**For more school assembly resources please see the menu selection on the Home Page of this site.**

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## **Staff Prayer & Ritual** **God's Comforting Love**

*The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 2 Year B*

**Duration:** 10 mins

**Preparation:**

Set up a sacred prayer space in the room using Advent coloured fabric, as per Advent Week 1 Year B - TIRK.

**Prayer Ritual:**

When the community is settled, the Prayer Leader recalls with them last week's ritual. S/he directs them to focus on the first and second Advent candles in the Advent Wreath. As the candles are lit the following is said:

**Leader:** May the Advent light fill us with God's blessing.

**All:** May the Advent light fill us with God's blessing.

**Leader:** May the Advent light guide us on our way of love.

**All:** May the Advent light guide us on our way of love.

**Scripture Focus:** Isaiah 40: 1; 3-5 ; 9; 11

*"O comfort my people, comfort them..."*

Following this, a member of the community comes forward and proclaims the text from Isaiah. Throughout the reading, at various intervals as indicated below, the community responds with the refrain:

**Comfort my people, comfort them.**

Have the reader proclaim this refrain at the end of the following verses, and raise her/his hand for the community to repeat the refrain.

Verses for the refrain: The end of verse 1, 3, 5, 9, 11

After a moment or two of quiet reflection, the Prayer Leader invites the group to share the word or phrase from the reading that touched them.

*(This is not a discussion, simply the sharing of a word or phrase from the readings without explanation or detail).*

After every three or four sharings, the Prayer Leader says, **This is the Word of the Lord** and the community repeats this refrain.

Following this the Prayer Leader reflects with the group on God's call to each of us to be the comfort of God for one another. S/he highlights the imagery from the reading of the tenderness of the shepherd and talks with the community about the call to each of us to bring this tender love and care of God to each other.

The Prayer Leader then invites them to name in the quiet of their heart where they feel this Advent call to bring God's comfort is most relevant and challenging in their own personal lives. Play some quiet instrumental music as they reflect on this.

After an appropriate time, the community is invited to pray the following prayer together.

**Tender God,  
You who comfort and shepherd us,  
Draw us close during these Advent days  
To the mystery of your love,  
That comforted and strengthened by your love,  
We may be your comforting presence  
For one another and all who are in need.  
Amen.**

### **Conclusion:**

Conclude by viewing the movie of the Advent Hymn, **Comfort My People** (Monica Brown – Comfort My People) available on [www.liturgyplanningimages.com](http://www.liturgyplanningimages.com)  
Alternatively, sing the hymn together.

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**For more staff prayers and rituals please see the menu selection on the Home Page of this site.**

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## **Liturgy Resources** **God's Comforting Love**

***The following resources are based on the Sunday readings for Advent Week 2 Year B***

**Nature Of Liturgy:** A Liturgy of The Word. Elements of this liturgy may be adapted for a Eucharistic Liturgy.

### **Website Links:**

<http://www.catholic.org/clife/advent/>

<http://www.silk.net/RelEd/searchresults.html?cx=partner-pub-0071582534774467%3A5uv0hh-gffo&cof=FORID%3A10&q=Advent&sa=Search#1151>

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Seasons/Advent.shtml>

[www.liturgyplanningimages.com](http://www.liturgyplanningimages.com)

## **Readings:**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40: 1-5,9-11

*O comfort my people...like a shepherd who gathers his flock*

**Gospel:** Mark 1: 1- 8

*Prepare the way for the Lord...*

## **Prayers:**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Presider:**

Let us pray.... Pause for silent prayer

Comforting God,

We know your deep love for us,

In the gift of Jesus your Son.

May we open our hearts to your Advent call,

To be your comforting presence for all

Through Jesus, who is our comfort and our love.

**All:** Amen.

**Prayer Of The Faithful:**

**Presider:** God calls us to bring God's comforting love to one another. Let us pray now that we can respond to God's call in a special way during these days of Advent.

**Reader:** To those who are sad and lonely, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who are bullied and teased, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who are different and left out, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who are troubled and worried, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who reach out and are in need, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Reader:** To those who grieve and miss their loved ones, God calls to us...  
(Mime freeze image)

**All:** Comfort my people, comfort them.

**Presider:**

Holy God,

We have heard your Advent call

To comfort your people.

We go forth now,

Ready and willing to do all that we can  
To love as Jesus your Son has taught us.  
This we pray in Jesus' name.  
**All:** Amen.

### **Breaking Open The Word / Homily:**

The following points may be helpful in breaking open the Word of God.

- Invite the community to pause and recall the Word or phrase from the readings that spoke to them. After a minute or two of silent reflection, invite them to name that word or phrase. *(This is not a discussion, simply the sharing of a word or phrase from the texts without explanation or detail).*
- Highlight the reading from Isaiah and the imagery of the tender shepherd who gathers his flock and holds them close to himself. Talk with them about the protection, comfort and love of God that has come to us in Jesus.
- Recall with them God's call to us in the beginning of the reading from Isaiah, for us to comfort God's people; to be the tender love and care of God for each other. Invite them to name practical ways that they can do this for one another, for their family and friends, and especially for those in need. Direct them to pause and pray silently that they will try during this time of Advent to bring God's comforting love to others.
- Conclude by directing the community to think about some of the things that trouble or worry them. Allow a minute or two of quiet reflection on this and then direct them to close their eyes and imagine Jesus holding them close to his heart, as the shepherd hold his lambs. Invite them to share with Jesus the things that worry or trouble them and to ask him for his comfort and strength. After a moment or two play the mantra, **Emmanuel** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)

### **Highlighting Rituals:**

- **The Welcome and Lighting Of Advent Wreath:**

Following the Entrance Hymn, the Presider/Prayer Leader, welcomes the community. S/he moves towards the Advent Wreath where the first Advent candle is lit, and recalls last week's liturgy where the Advent Wreath was blessed and lit for the first time. S/he then goes on to say:

**As we light our second Advent candle, we open our hearts to hear God's call to us to comfort God's people, the way that Jesus has brought God's comfort to us: as a tender shepherd who gathers his flock and holds them close to his heart. Let us prepare to hear God's call to us, as we light our second Advent candle.** A child comes forward and lights the second Advent Candle from the first candle.

- **The First Reading**

Throughout the reading from the Prophet Isaiah, have the community respond, at various intervals as indicated below, with the following refrain;

**Comfort my people, comfort them.**

Have the reader proclaim this refrain at the end of the following verses, and raise her/his hand for the community to repeat the refrain.

Verses for the refrain: The end of verse 1, 3, 5, 9, 11

- **The Prayer Of The Faithful**

(See above)

- **PowerPoint Reflections:**

You may wish to view one of the following PowerPoint Presentations which are available on [www.liturgyplanningimages.com](http://www.liturgyplanningimages.com)

**Come Gather Children - Children's Hymn** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)



***Come O Jesus - Children's Hymn*** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)  
***Fill Every Valley – Children's Hymn*** (Michael Mangan – Sing Your Joy)  
***Our God Is Near - Children's Hymn*** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)

- **Final Blessing**

The Presider takes up some Holy Water and moves out and blesses the community saying;

**May you be blessed in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,** (the community make the sign of the cross) **as you strive throughout this Advent journey to be the comforting love of God for all who are in need.**

**All: Amen.**

**Music Relevant To The Theme:**

- **Advent Canon** (Carey Landry – Hi God 5)
- **A Voice In The Wilderness** (Chris Robinson – A Voice In The Wilderness)
- **Candles Of Advent** (Carey Landry – Hi God 6)
- **Come O Jesus** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Come Gather Children** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Emmanuel, God With Us** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **God Of Our Journey** (Monica Brown – Praise & Blessings)
- **Jesus Is The Light** (Michael Mangan – Setting Hearts On Fire)
- **Like A Shepherd** (B.Dufford – As One Voice/Vol 1 & Gather Australia)
- **O Emmanuel** (Michael Mangan – As One Voice For Kids)
- **Our God Is Near** (Monica Brown – Our God Is Near)
- **Prepare The Way** (C. Walker – Calling The Children)
- **Water of Life** (John Burland)

**Sacred Space, Art and Environment:**

Advent-coloured fabric, Advent Wreath, Word of God, Holy Water and a sprig of greenery for the blessing of the community.

Visit [www.liturgyplanningimages.com](http://www.liturgyplanningimages.com) for graphics & photographs.

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**A Word To Take Home**  
**Advent Week 2 Year B**  
**God's Comforting Love**

**Scripture Focus: Isaiah 40: 1; 3-5 ; 9; 11**

*“O comfort my people, comfort them...”*

The word 'comfort' is a beautiful word that can actually do what it means: soothe and ease pain and heartache. It is a relational word that can cross thresholds and boundaries. It is an intimate word that can deepen and unite. Above all, it is God's Word to us during this second week of Advent.

The fact that God urges us in this reading from Isaiah, to comfort one another, reflects something of God's belief in us. If we read on in this text we see the extent of God's belief in what we can bring about for one another through the grace of God's own Spirit in us. God directs and instructs us in this reading to comfort one another by saying to those in need, 'Here is your God'. (Is 40:9)



God *is* the comfort that we can give to those who suffer and pain; those who live in the lifeless, harsh, barren wilderness of human struggle, in whatever form it is experienced. God knows, well beyond our own imagining, how we, like Jesus, can embody in our humanity the very Spirit of God, and in this, actually bring comfort to others.

At the end of the day, it doesn't take miracles for people to experience the comforting presence of God in their lives. It simply takes someone like you and I to believe in what God can do in us through the touch and presence of our own humanity. Take a moment or two to ponder, in these days of Advent, God's belief in what you can do for others, and in the hearts you know that are struggling in the wilderness, be the comforting presence of God in some practical, tangible way.

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