

TEXTS

1. Overture

2. Comfort Ye My People

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith our God. Speak ye comfortably to your kindred, and cry unto them, that their struggle will be accomplished, that their iniquity is abolished.

The voice I hear that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the light, make clear in the desert a highway for a new world.

3. Every Valley Shall Be Exalted

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the dark made bright, and the rough places plain.

4. And the Glory in the World

And the glory in the world shall be revealed, and what glory shall we see together? For we're told that our God hath spoken it.

5. Thus Saith Our God

Thus saith our God, the God of Hosts: Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heav'ns and earth, the sea and the dry land, and I will shake all nations; and the desire of the down-trodden shall come.

The last shall be first, the meek shall inherit the earth; a new glorious world of equity, for all to thrive in. Behold, it shall come, saith the God of Hosts.

6. The Work Has Begun, the Day Is Coming

The work has begun, the day is coming. And who shall stand when it appeareth? For we've come through a refiner's fire.

7. For Behold, Darkness Has Covered the Earth

For behold, darkness has covered the earth, and corrupted the people: But the sun shall arise upon us, and its warmth shall be felt among us. Through McCarthy, and AIDS, and assaults, we still strive together for our rising.

8. The People That Walked in Darkness

The people that walked in darkness have struggled for light: and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

9. O Thou Awaiting Good Tidings of Freedom

O thou awaiting good tidings of freedom; get thee up into the high mountain!

O thou awaiting good tidings to the hidden, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. With Harvey, and Marsha, and Sylvia; Malala, and Malcolm, and Rosa, we carry on!

O thou awaiting good tidings of freedom, arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of our love is risen upon thee.

O thou awaiting good tidings of freedom, good tidings of great joy to come, arise! The struggle, the protest, the riot, we carry on! Behold! Together we create a world revealed in glory.

10. We Want a World

We want a world, we want a future of justice and peace on earth!

Work for a world, work for a future of justice and peace on earth—one where we welcome all. What does it mean, what does it mean to proclaim: goodwill toward all? Fighting for others' rights!

Justice for all!

Freedom for all!

Kindness toward all!

Goodwill toward all!

11. Rebuke

12. Thy Rebuke Hath Broken My Heart

Thy rebuke hath broken my heart; I am full of heaviness: I looked for some to take pity on me, but there was no one, neither found I any to comfort me.

13. We Are Despised

We are despised and rejected of men; accursed with sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

14. Surely We Have Borne Such Grief

Surely we have borne such grief, and carried great sorrow; we've been wounded for our transgressions, we are bruised for our humanity: the disruption of their peace fell upon us.

15. All They That See Us Laugh Us to Scorn

All they that see us laugh us to scorn, so we shoot out our lips and shake our heads, saying...

16. All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to their own way; but the world demands of us: be invisible, or be gone.

17. How Beautiful Are the Feet

How beautiful are the feet of them that tell of a future of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

18. Their Sound Is Gone Out

Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.

19. Why Do the Nations So Furiously Rage Against Us

Why do the nations so furiously rage against us? And why do the people make us their enemy, deny our humanity?

We must once again rise up, as the rulers take counsel together against our lives and our autonomy.

20. Let Us Break Their Bonds Asunder

Let us break our bonds asunder: and cast away their yokes from us.

21. Who Shall Feed This Flock

Who shall feed this flock like a shepherd? And who shall gather the lambs with their arm, and carry them in their bosom, and gently lead those that are with young?

You're welcome here, all ye that labour; you're welcome here, that are heavy laden; here, you will find rest. We share this yoke among us, the yoke of kin. For we are weaker when we are apart; the work is far from done, but we shall find rest in sharing the load.

22. This Yoke Is Easy, and This Burden Is Light

This yoke is easy, this burden is light.

23. I Know That Our Redemption Cometh

I know that our redemption cometh, and that we shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see peace: for now may life prosper from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

24. Behold, I Tell You a Mystery

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye: at the last trumpet.

25. The Trumpet Shall Sound

The trumpet shall sound, and the hateful shall love ferociously; we all shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this ingrate must put on generosity.

26. Worthy is the Strife Overcome

Worthy is the strife overcome; and to the end we go with peace in our souls: to work for freedom, compassion, and wisdom, and strength, inclusion, and courage, and mercy.

27. Amen

28. Hallelujah

Hallelujah! We shall not rest 'til unity reigneth. The kingdoms of this world shall become the nations for repair, and for our joy, and hope shall last for ever and ever. Turn to love and heal the world.

Text revisions by Emily Isaacson with Jules Biber, Danielle Buonaiuto, Elijah McCormack, Brian Mummert, and members of the Oratorio Chorale.