



# WHAT THEN SHALL I CRY?

## ADVENT 2 - PEACE

### Warm up question:

- What comforts you when you are upset? How do you comfort others when they are in need?

### Read Isaiah 40:1-11

1. What is the context of this passage? Why do God's people need comforting?
2. In verse 2, what do you think God might be referring to?
3. What comes to mind for when you think of 'preparing a way in the wilderness and making a straight highway in the desert?' What are some Old Testament references and New Testament references?
4. What do you think verse 4 is alluding to? Do you think this is literal or figurative?
5. What do you think verse 5 is speaking about? How does it make you feel to read this verse?
6. In verse 6, why do you think Isaiah was being told to "Cry out"? (think about verse 5)
7. What is the significance of verses 6b-8? What does this have to say about God's promises?
8. How does verse 8 challenge the way you view your relationship with God?
9. In verse 9, why do you think God tells Isaiah to not be afraid in proclaiming "Here is your God!"
10. How do verses 10-11 work together to give us a fuller picture of our God?
11. What is your overall perspective on the future of God's people from this chapter?

### Read Psalm 85:1-13

12. How does Psalm 85 respond to what you have just read in Isaiah 40?
13. What can we say about God as Comforter and Peace-bringer from Isaiah 40 and Psalm 85?
14. Is there any peace to be found for us in Isaiah 40 and Psalm 85?

### Rubber hits the road:

- What is your response to the question, "What then shall I cry?"
- How will the peace that you find in your Shepherd Jesus change the way you live your life this week?

### PRAYER

*Merciful God, how can we ever thank you enough for forgiving our sins and restoring us as your people? You have truly spoken to us tenderly and have comforted us in our anxieties. We thank you for the peace that we find in your eternal word. Please help us this week to rest in your promises, and to always look to you for our strength and protection. You are our Shepherd and we find our rest in you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

