

December 10, 2017  
**“The God Who Comforts”**  
**(Isaiah 40:1-11)**

Helping \_\_\_\_\_ is what life is all about, isn't it?

The backdrop for this passage finds Jerusalem, the Temple, and the Jewish armies had all been destroyed by the \_\_\_\_\_ Army.

Israel's best citizens were marched off to Babylon in what is now modern day \_\_\_\_\_.

The prophet Jeremiah told the people of Israel they would be in Babylon for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Their exile was not due to Babylon's strength, but was a well-deserved \_\_\_\_\_ from God for their wickedness.

It is in this context that \_\_\_\_\_ comes on the scene with this much welcomed message. (Isaiah 40:1-2)

The first words sung in “\_\_\_\_\_” are taken directly from this passage of Scripture.

This is good news for the Jewish people who were feeling God-\_\_\_\_\_.

The good news was that God had \_\_\_\_\_ their sins and had \_\_\_\_\_ them as His own people!

**This joyous message is not only for the people of Israel. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ message for \_\_\_\_\_ of us!**

We all have sinned. All of us have needed \_\_\_\_\_.

God didn't forgive Israel because they \_\_\_\_\_ to be forgiven, or because He regarded their \_\_\_\_\_ lightly.

(over)

**God forgave them simply because He \_\_\_\_\_ them!**

When a parent gives love like that they are reflecting the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

That's why it's appropriate that we give \_\_\_\_\_ at Christmas time. They are a \_\_\_\_\_ way of expressing our love.

Rachel Naomi Remen was comforted by new earrings because they symbolized her \_\_\_\_\_ love for her.

**Christ came to us not because we deserve it, nor because he \_\_\_\_\_ of everything we are or have done. He came because of his Father's \_\_\_\_\_ love for us!**

Aren't you thankful, this Advent Season, for a God who comforts?

Have you experienced this God of Comfort?