

# COMFORTER\*

*The Holy Spirit is the Person of the Trinity Who abides with us always, to minister comfort to us.*

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
<p><b>Psalm 23</b> <b>Psalm 94:17-22</b> <b>Psalm 119:49-56</b> <b>Isaiah 51:1-3; 66:13</b> John 14:16-18, 25-27 <b>John 14:1-28</b> Romans 8:14-17 <b>Romans 15:1-7</b> <b>2 Corinthians 1:1-7</b></p>	<p><b>A Garment of Praise (Lopez) SATB</b> Abide with Me Be Still, My Soul <b>Cry No More (Forrest) Solo</b> Day by Day <b>Gentle Voice (Dengler) SATB</b> Hiding in Thee I Need Thee Every Hour I Run to Christ <b>It Is Well (Knoedler) SATB</b> It Is Well with My Soul Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Spirit of the Living God <b>Still, My Soul Be Still (Getty) Solo</b></p>



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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\* This theme can correspond to **Mother's Day**.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## EXPERIENCING & GIVING COMFORT

*It is sometimes difficult to define the comfort of God. But if you have experienced His comfort, you know what it means to have a God Who is touched with the feelings of our infirmities, and you know how it feels to experience His grace and comfort in time of need. To comfort someone else, we do not have to have had identical trials, but we do need to encourage properly. We should focus on sharing what God has taught us through a trial and encouraging others that God can give them victory as well. Paul was so burdened that he almost despaired of life itself; but his view was that more suffering leads to more comfort, which leads to more opportunities to help others.*

## LEGAL ADVOCACY (MOTHER'S DAY)

*One translation of John 14:18 reads, "I will not leave you as orphans." In our legal/social services system, a child who is an orphan is assigned different advocates. The child might have a legal advocate, a foster parent, an educational advocate, etc.; a Court-Appointed Special Advocate coordinates the work that all of these people do for the child. But for a child who is not an orphan, all of these roles are wrapped up in one person: a parent. The same is true once a child is adopted; a parent fills all of the roles that need to be filled.*

## NURSES ARE COMFORTERS

**John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 9:31** | *Nurses are often thought of as comforters. During these weeks of isolation of those who contract COVID-19, nurses have sometimes been the only comforters for those who are sick. The role of a comforter involves more than "making someone feel better," though. Nurses provide all of the following things, in which we see parallels to the Spirit's ministry:*

1. **comfort** – ease physical suffering, give emotional support
2. **instruction/explanation** – how to use medical devices or take medicine, therapy, coaching
3. **reminder** – help patients remember doctors' instructions, communicate with family
4. **advocacy** – go between the patient and the doctors

*Ask nurses to discuss how they have filled these different roles; compile answers into a video or reading.*

## *PARAKLETE*

*God's comfort is not just about making us feel better when we are going through a difficult time. It is about His giving us strength, courage, and encouraging us that we can have victory during a trial. The Holy Spirit's role of "Comforter" includes many different facets of His work, all bound up in the many facets of the Greek word Jesus uses for Him, paraclete. He comforts, comes alongside, encourages, and exhorts (much like a mother does her children). Yes, He comforts us in the sense in which we usually think of comfort. But His work goes beyond that to include instructing us, reminding us of the truth, and advocating before the Father on our behalf.*