

## Sermon Notes

### Hope Has a Name #2: "Comfort in the Chaos"

December 9 & 10, 2023

Isaiah 40:1-11

#### Opener (choose one):

1. Share a comfort item or habit you turn to when you need a "pick-me-up."
2. Imagine we're creating a "Comfort Playlist." Share one song that brings you comfort or joy, and briefly explain why.

#### Go Deeper:

1. What historical challenges were God's people facing during Isaiah's time, and why was the concept of comfort so foreign to them?
2. In what ways does Isaiah contrast the transient nature of human life with the enduring nature of God's Word (verses 6-8)? How does this comparison impact our perspective on life's challenges?
3. Discuss the portrayal of God as a shepherd in Isaiah 40:10. How does this image reconcile the idea of God's might and gentleness?
4. How does Isaiah 53:6-7 connect with the themes of comfort and redemption presented in Isaiah 40:1-11? What deeper understanding does this connection bring to the concept of God's comfort?

#### Live It:

1. How does the idea of preparing a road in the desert resonate with the uncertainties we face in life? Share an example of a time when you had to trust God in the midst of uncertainty.
2. Discuss the tendency to deny or ignore brokenness in our lives. In what ways do we see this tendency in ourselves or others? How can we create a space for acknowledging and admitting our need for God's comfort?
3. Reflect on a recent or ongoing adversity in your life. How have you tried to find comfort in the midst of it? How might Isaiah's message influence your approach to seeking comfort?
4. Read Isaiah 53:6-7 and how Christ bore our sins. How does this reflection impact your understanding of God's comfort? In what ways can this reflection influence your daily walk with God?
5. What is God's Word saying to you?
6. What specifically are you going to do about it this week?

#### We would love to hear your story!

If you have a story to share of healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a mission or ministry at Victory, please send to [hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com). (200-300 word limit)

#### Daily Bible Readings (December 10-16)

Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-11  
Monday: Isaiah 40:25-31  
Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-6  
Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9  
Thursday: Isaiah 53:1-9  
Friday: Isaiah 55:1-5  
Saturday: Isaiah 55:6-13

\*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar our sermon series is based on.

## Life Notes

## Upcoming Week

### Sunday, December 10

7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship, WC

### Monday, December 11

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4

### Tuesday, December 12

**5:30pm Christmas Lights Bus Tour (full)**

7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

### Wednesday, December 13

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4  
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR  
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC  
1:30pm Women's Bible Study, B7  
**4pm Advent Communion Service, WC**  
4pm I-HELP, C4  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC  
8pm AA Meeting, FS

### Thursday, December 14

10am Prayer Group, B7  
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS  
4pm I-HELP, C4  
**5:30pm Christmas Lights Bus Tour (full)**

### Friday, December 15

Office Closed

### Saturday, December 16

8am Men's Bible Study, FS  
9am Stephen Ministry Training, B7  
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel  
FH = Fellowship Hall  
FS = Fireside Room  
LR = Luther Room  
WC = Worship Center  
C4 = Community Room



### CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

**1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm**  
(Choir at 3 & 5pm)

**9pm with communion**

Staffed Nursery available at 1,3,5 & 7pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**10am with communion**

**Victory Lutheran Church**  
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205  
[hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com)  
480-830-5024  
[VictoryLutheran.com](http://VictoryLutheran.com)

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**VICTORY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connect with us!

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### GOD TIME:

"Our fast-paced world often drowns out His gentle whispers, but in prayer, we find the channel to truly listen. Let's silence the noise, open our hearts, and hear His wisdom that's always there, waiting to be heard. 🕊️💬"

## GOD IS ALWAYS SPEAKING

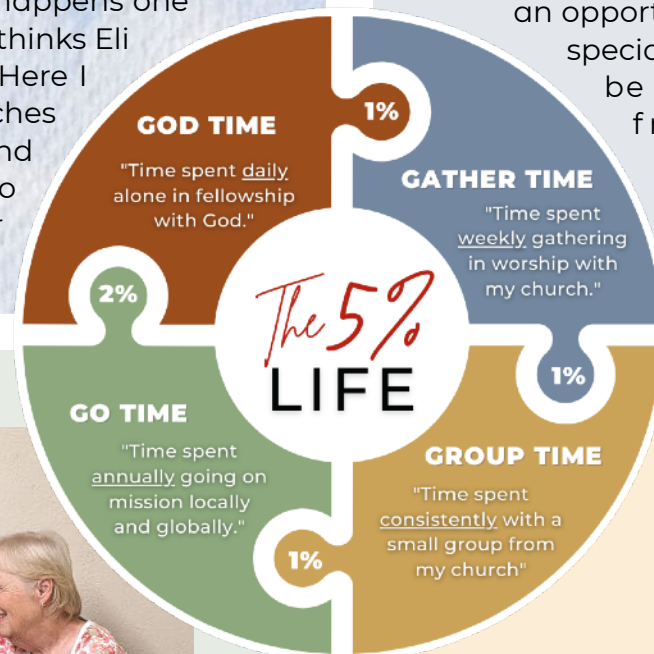
# Are we listening?

In **1 Samuel 3**, Samuel is called to serve the Lord. At this time in history, hearing from the Lord was a rarity, and he was giving no visible signs of his presence. But, something happens one night while Samuel is sleeping. Samuel is awakened by the voice of the Lord. He thinks Eli is calling him. Three times in the narrative, Samuel appears before Eli saying, "Here I am!" because he mistakes God's voice for his teacher's voice. Then, Eli teaches Samuel to listen to the Lord. He "perceives" the Lord is calling young Samuel, and he provides a valuable lesson on the way each of us should respond. Eli says to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if He calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" (v. 9).

### GATHER TIME:

#### "Christmas Around the World" VLC Choir & Bell Concert December 17, 3pm

Please join us for our annual Christmas concert featuring the Victory Choir and Handbell Choir as we celebrate Christmas with music from around the world! Christmas carols are enjoyed and sung by people of all ages, all cultures and all customs. As the story of the Christ-child traveled around the world, composers and writers found ways to celebrate this special story through song. This concert will include special pieces by the choir, bells, and soloists, as well as an opportunity to join your voices in these special songs of the season! There will be a reception following, and freewill offering gratefully accepted. Invite your friends and neighbors and come share the joy of Christmas that is felt around the world!



### GO TIME: THE POWER OF AN INVITE Gloria Dibley & Diane Webster

"Why don't you come to church?", Gloria asked Diane regularly. Unlike Gloria who was very involved at church, even working at Victory as a custodian on Sundays and Wednesdays for a while, Diane hadn't attended church for several years and was reluctant to come at first. "But she kept pestering me, "Diane said, "so I decided to give it a try." She felt at home from the first time she visited Victory, and she's been here ever since!



Gloria had lived in the Fountain of the Sun community for a few years before Diane moved next door from California where she had been a court clerk for 25 years. The two became good friends. It wasn't long before Diane became the one who invited a neighbor to church. Sally was more eager than Diane and told her she would come after only being invited once!

These days, all three friends are very involved in the life of Victory. You will find them setting up and serving communion, leading and attending Bible studies, helping at Family Promise, serving refreshments at funerals and special events like Oktoberfest, attending Monday studies and movies, traveling with members to Rome and Israel, and much more! **Who will you invite?**

### GROUP TIME:

Join us as we tour some beautiful residential light displays! The bus will leave Victory at 5:30pm and return to have cookies and cider. Sign up and pay at the Welcome Desk. Limited seating. Cost \$5.00.

Due to popular demand, we have added two additional tours on December 19th & 21st. Hurry and reserve your spot!

- DEC 12 - FULL
- DEC 14 - FULL
- DEC 19 - OPEN
- DEC 21 - OPEN

## Christmas Lights BUS TOURS

