

**30 Days Together**  
**“Immanuel – God With Us”**  
**#30daystogether**

**Day #17 – Dec. 12**

**Text: Isaiah 40:9-11**

You who bring good news to Zion,  
    go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
    lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
    say to the towns of Judah,  
    “Here is your God!”  
See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
    and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
    and his recompense accompanies him.  
He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
    He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
    he gently leads those that have young.

**Devotion:** Leslie Hess

Isaiah is my favorite Old Testament book. It is filled with the Good News of the coming of the Savior and also what He will look like and what He will do. And, being a music person, reminds me of the wonderful music of Handel’s Messiah. Over the years I have accumulated so many songs directly from these words or taken from Isaiah’s writings that so much of scripture comes to me in a melody (or sometimes the harmony). Isaiah is a joy to me!

In reading and rereading this passage, I see the forte and piano. I always instruct my choirs to sing strong whether loud or soft. It’s the strength of the tone that makes the music more than just notes. So Isaiah says first, sing fortissimo as in “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”. Our Sovereign Lord comes with power and a mighty arm.! He will save! But that huge, mighty, strong God has such an equally huge heart that He has a crazy love for all of us. So crazy big that He would do anything to save us. And he did. So sing strong, soft and gently, pianissimo, “I Am Jesus Little Lamb”.

These words of Isaiah are for us right now, right this day, right his hour! See our Lord coming with power and proclaim it. When you feel that you are alone and weak, read these words and feel His heartbeat.

What you read today in God’s word you will be called upon to experience or share in some way today or shortly after therefore today is the day to shout the good news and feel the shepherd’s love.

The Babe in Bethlehem and the Savior of the World.

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, give us boldness to proclaim your mighty power. When we are weak, you are strong! AMEN