

A Worship Minute

Excerpt from “Advent, a Calendar of Devotions, 2008” by James A. Harnish

“The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” *(Isaiah 40:5)*

In 1741, George Fredric Handel was at the low ebb of his career when a friend convinced him to compose an oratorio that would tell the story of God’s redemption in Christ. He completed *Messiah* in a twenty-four-day spurt of inspired energy. During its second performance in London in 1742, King George II stood for the “Hallelujah” chorus, and we’ve been standing ever since.

Handel drew most of the Christmas portion from Isaiah, including his exuberant setting of Isaiah’s promise that “the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.” It is followed by the energetic command for the one who tells good tidings to Zion to get up and get going and proclaim the good news, “Behold your God!”

It should not come as a surprise that Handel’s joyful announcement of the good news came out of a dark and difficult time in his life. That’s the way the good news came to Isaiah, and that’s the way the good news often comes for us.



***Session, The Board of Managers and Staff
of St. Andrew’s wish you
a blessed Christmas and
a Happy and Healthy New Year***