



CONNECT TO TODAY'S ONLINE WORSHIP GUIDE: THIRDRVA.ORG/THIS-SUNDAY

Here we post current prayer concerns of those with health needs and those in need of comfort, the full scriptural text for today's service, a link to give online, and important announcements about the life of our church.

GATHERING

"PRELUDE, FUGUE, AND CHACONNE" (DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE)

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

- › Come, Creator Spirit, and move over us.
- » **Come, Creator Spirit, and bring us new life. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

- › The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us;
- » **We dwell in him and he in us.**
- › Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
- » **Make known his deeds among the peoples.**
- › Sing to him, sing praises to him,
- » **And speak of all his marvelous works.**
- › Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
- » **Who was and is and is to come!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

"FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light,
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

For yourself, best gift divine,
To the world so freely given,
Agent of God's grand design:
Peace on earth and joy in heaven,
Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise.

"OUR GREAT GOD"

Eternal God, unchanging, mysterious, and unknown;
Your boundless love, unfailing, grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in ceaseless flight around your glorious throne;
They raise their voices day and night in praise to you alone.

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

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Lord, we are weak and frail, helpless in the storm.
Surround us with your angels, hold us in your arms;
Our cold and ruthless enemy, his pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, O Lord, and he will flee before our sovereign God.

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird,
Let every mountain, every field and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
Sing praises to the living God who rules them by his word.

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- › Almighty God, who sent the promised power of the Holy Spirit to fill disciples with willing faith:
- » **We confess that we resist the force of your Spirit among us, that we are slow to serve you and reluctant to spread the good news of your love.**
- › God, have mercy on us.
- » **Forgive divisions and by your Spirit draw us together. In flame us with a desire to do your will and be your faithful people for the sake of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

The Lord is steadfast, merciful, and slow to anger. He extends his mercy to us and receives us as we are. Let's bring our confessions to the Lord silently.

WORDS OF COMFORT

- › Friends in Christ: by the power of the Spirit, we are united with Christ and given a new spirit. Live in the joy and peace of that assurance.

» **Thanks be to God!**

GREETING OF PEACE

As a new spiritual family reconciled to one another through Christ, pass the peace of Christ to one another as you're able.

THANKSGIVING

OUR OFFERINGS | FROM 1 CHRONICLES 29:14

- › Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?
- » **For all things come from you and what we now offer is already yours.**

Pray for our mission partner For Richmond, a nonprofit organization that connects and equips Christian leaders to collaborate for the transformation of metro Richmond. They cultivate the space and focus for individuals to have greater impact through unity of vision and resources.

OFFERTORY | "PSALM 42 (AS THE DEER)"

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after thee;
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship thee.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
To you alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship thee.*

You're my friend and you are my brother,
Even though you are a King;
I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything.

I want you more than gold or silver,
Only you can satisfy;
You alone are the real joy-giver,
And the apple of my eye.

Want to make a gift this morning? You can drop it in the basket in the Commons or give online at thirdrva.org/give.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING | 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14–3:4, 3:17–18

Read along in your Bible or the online guide for this Sunday at thirdrva.org/this-sunday.

SERMON | "LETTERS OF THE SPIRIT"

RESPONDING

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- › Christians, what do you believe?
- » **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- › Lift up your hearts!
- » **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- › Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- » **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- › Holy and merciful God, our Father, you have made us in your image and for yourself. You have made this good world for us to tend and to enjoy. God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
- › You sought your ancient people when they strayed from you. You freed them from the oppressor and brought them home. God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**

- › You have sent your Son to bring us home to you.
By his Incarnation—
- » **You have found us.**
- › By his Death—
- » **You have forgiven us.**
- › By his Resurrection—
- » **You have freed us.**
- › God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
- › In union with Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Great High Priest, and with all who worship you, both in heaven and on earth, we offer you our praise, singing:
- » **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow’r and might,
Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he, blessed is he
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

- › Holy and merciful God, our Father, send down your Holy Spirit on our bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and on your people, that we may be the body of Christ, reconciled to you and to each other by his blood. By your Holy Spirit make us—
- » **One with Christ, one with each other, and one in mission to all the world,**
- › Until Christ shall come in final victory and we feast together at his heavenly banquet. We cry,
- » **Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION | FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26

- › “The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

The Lord’s Supper, or Communion, is one of the two sacraments we celebrate (the other is baptism). It’s one of the most important things we do when we gather together, because the bread and juice are concrete signs of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. When we come forward to receive them, we believe that Jesus is actually present through the Holy Spirit, extending his grace and forgiveness to us. We welcome anyone to the table who is willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. If you are not able to receive Communion, we invite you to use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

PRAYER OF THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

“Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Lead me into the light and life you promise. Amen.”

PRAYER OF BELIEF

“Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more blind and sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete acceptance. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.”

Adapted from prayers written by Rev. Scot Sherman, Redeemer Presbyterian Church

As we take the elements together, spend a few moments meditating on the mercy of God given to us in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Praise and thank God for his gift of love that binds us together in unity through Jesus’ sacrifice!

THE LORD’S PRAYER

- » **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.**

SENDING

“ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN”

Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heaven and voices raise.
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross a victim
For the world’s salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Death at last has met defeat.
See the ancient powers of evil
In confusion and retreat.
Once he died and once was buried;
Now he lives forevermore—
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, Christ the firstfruits
Of the holy harvest field,
Which will all its full abundance
At his second coming yield.
Then the golden ears of harvest
Will their heads before him wave,
Ripened by his glorious sunshine
From the furrows of the grave.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia! to the Savior,
Who has won the victory;
Alleluia! to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, alleluia!
To the triune Majesty.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | 1 PETER 2:9–10

- › But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- » **Let us declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light!**

“PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY” (ARR. DIANE BISH)

We rejoice in the birth of twin sisters Madeline Rebecca and Beatrice Charlotte on April 26, born to Chad and Rebecca White and big sister Eleanor in the Three Chopt parish area. Please keep this family in prayer, as they will be temporarily relocated to Charlottesville while the babies remain in NICU care.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

"LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS" HYMNAL #19

Descant

5 For your - self, best gift di - vine, to the world so free - ly given,
 G C G C G D G

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,

a - gent of God's grand de - sign: peace on earth and joy in heaven.
 C G C G D G

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grate - ful praise.
 D G C G D G

Refrain
 Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grate - ful praise.

4 For the joy of human love,
 brother, sister, parent, child,
 friends on earth, and friends above,
 for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Refrain

5 For yourself, best gift divine,
 to the world so freely given,
 agent of God's grand design:
 peace on earth and joy in heaven.
Refrain