"THE UNITY SONG" | SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020



This guide follows the service that streams at <u>live.thirdrva.org</u> at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. We're also providing opportunities and resources to worship at home or outside the church building. Learn more at <u>thirdrva.org</u>.

GATHERING -

PRELUDE | "JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING" (DALE WOOD)

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP | FROM PSALM 46:10

- Be still, and know that I am God.
 I will be exalted among the nations,
 I will be exalted in the earth.
- » Amen.

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

- > The God of creation makes us one in body!
- » Let us join hearts and voices in praise of the Lord!
- > The God of Christ makes us one in Spirit!
- » Let us join hearts in praise of the Lord!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONG OF PRAISE | "COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING"

MUSIC ON PAGE 2

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

"LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS" HYMNAL #492



Words: anonymous, 1757, alt., P.D. Music (ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.4): Felice de Giardini, 1769, P.D.

SONG OF PRAISE | "TRINITY SONG"

Holy Father, Son and Spirit, holy communion, three-in-one. Come with your peace, with your invitation; bind us together in holy love.

PRAYING -

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

» Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE | FROM HEBREWS 4:14-16

- > Since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
- » For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.
- > Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,
- » So that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Spend some time praying aloud for the following topics, and for concerns in your life and community:

Pray for leaders in government, health, business, education and social sectors, that God would lead them to make wise decisions in the face of very complex and challenging circumstances.

Pray that God would give help and success to our health experts, and that treatments and vaccines would be discovered and tested successfully.

Pray for the ongoing work of justice, reconciliation and healing from our racial divides, and that God would use the church in our city and nation to be an instrument of healing.

Pray for health: Strick Smith, Ann Kooiman, Nancy Taulbee, David Hacker, Elaine Turner, Carolyn Oakley, Karen Tatti, Becky Edwards, Bradley Crawford, Christie Geraty, Milton Jones

Pray for comfort for the loss of loved ones: Bill Wildner (8/4); Tim Cole (father, 8/1); Melinda Bothe (father, 7/24); Frank Faust (wife, 6/30); Melba Tyler (mother, 6/17); Tam and Josh Bishop (husband, father Brad, 6/1)

- > Gathering our prayers into one, let us boldly pray as our Savior has taught us:
- » 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.

GREETING OF PEACE

As a new spiritual family reconciled to one another through Christ, take a moment to pass the peace of Christ to one another as you're able, either with those in your home, or by text to other friends and family watching.

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.

To give online, visit thirdrva.org/generosity.

Please be praying for our mission partner Tim Cole and Strategies to Elevate People (STEP), as they surround and support leaders in the urban community with compassion, prayer, and action to defeat physical and spiritual poverty.

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 | PSALM 133

- How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
- It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.
- It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.
 For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.
- > This is the word of the Lord.
- » Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE | "THE UNITY SONG"

SENDING -

SONG OF COMMISSION | "WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION"

We will feast in the house of Zion, we will sing with our hearts restored. "He has done great things," we will say together. "We will feast and weep no more."

We will not be burned by the fire. He is the Lord our God. We are not consumed by the flood—upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn: my soul, be not afraid. For the promised morning, oh, how long? O God of Jacob, be my strength.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed. You are the faithful one. And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | FROM EPHESIANS 4:1-6

- I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.
 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- » There is one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

POSTLUDE | "THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE" (MICHAEL BURKHARDT)