

*Merry Christmas! Today is the 8th Day of Christmastide, so we continue to celebrate the wonder of Christ's coming and the mystery of the incarnation.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM 1 TIMOTHY 3:16**

- › Christ manifested in the flesh,  
Christ revealed in the Spirit.
- » **Praise the Lord, all you nations.**
- › Christ contemplated by the angels,  
Christ worshiped by the Magi.
- » **Praise the Lord, all you nations.**
- › Christ professed in the world,  
Christ exalted in glory.
- » **Praise the Lord, all you nations.**

**PRAYER OF ADORATION**

*Take a few moments to openly thank God for a few attributes of his character. This will be a popcorn-style prayer where everyone can share short one- or two-phrase prayers. For example, "God, thank you that you are all-powerful" or "God, thank you for your grace for me this week." The leader can open and then close after a few minutes of prayer.*



**"JOY TO THE WORLD!"**

Scan the code or visit [bit.ly/3HWD69m](https://bit.ly/3HWD69m)

*Feel free to sing out loud acapella or with accompaniment. Or you could just play the recording linked here and listen.*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Invite people to spend a few moments of silence reflecting on the last week and if there is anything that they want to talk about with God: a place of sadness, failure, sin or struggle. What do you want to name to God?*

*After a few moments, the leader can invite people to pray the following together:*

- » **Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE | FROM HEBREWS 4**

- › 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.**

**GREETING OF PEACE**

*As God's spiritual family, and people who have received and continue to receive peace through Christ, extend that peace to one another. You might take a moment to send a text to someone in the church family to let them know you are thinking about them!*

**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.**

*Want to make a gift this morning? Visit [thirdrva.org/give](https://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.

## SCRIPTURE READING | JOHN 1:1-18

*Invite someone to read the Scripture out loud, and pause for a few moments of silence after the reading to receive God's Word.*



**WATCH THE SERMON HERE**

Scan the code or visit [bit.ly/3jE5pQ1](https://bit.ly/3jE5pQ1)

## REFLECTION

*Take a few moments to reflect quietly or out loud together about the message. What particularly spoke to you today? How might you respond to God's Word in your own life today?*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Pray specifically for the needs of the people gathered with you this morning. We are not able to sustain our lives apart from the Lord's presence, grace and mercy.*



**"GOD WITH US"**

Scan the code or visit [bit.ly/3jkD9S5](https://bit.ly/3jkD9S5)

You've come to bring peace, to be love,  
To be nearer to us.

You've come to breathe life, to be light,  
To shine brighter in us.

Oh, Emmanuel, God with us.

*Our deliverer, you are Savior!*

*In your presence we find our strength.*

*Over everything, our redemption,*

*God with us, you are God with us.*

You've come to be hope to this world,  
For your honor and name.

You've come to take sin to bear shame  
And to conquer the grave.

Oh, Emmanuel, God with us.

*You are here, you are holy.*

*We are standing in your glory.*

## COMMISSION | MATTHEW 1:23

› All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel- which means "God with us."

» **Let us go forth to live our lives with God!**

## BENEDICTION | 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

› Say these words together:

» **Now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with us all, today and forever.**