



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

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP | FROM PSALM 62:5

- › For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait;
- » **Truly our hope is in you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM PSALM 130:5-7

- › I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.
- » **There is no darkness with you, O Lord.**
- › O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is
steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.
- » **There is no darkness with you, O Lord.**
- › Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- » **There is no darkness with you, O Lord.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

"COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art:
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

"GOD WITH US"

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

Oh, you've come to be hope
To this world for your honor and name,
And 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.*

CONFESSING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- › O light most blessed,
fill the inmost heart of all the faithful.
Without your grace, there is nothing in us,
nothing that is not harmful.
- » **Cleanse what is sordid,
flood what is arid,
heal what is hurt,
flex what is rigid,
fire what is frigid,
correct what goes astray.**

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 | FROM ISAIAH 40:1-2

- › Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- » **Our sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.**
- › In Christ, God's salvation is at hand,
and righteousness has come.
- » **Thanks be to God!**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- › Remember your church, O Christ;
send your spirit of unity, courage, and holiness.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › By shedding your blood, you have purified us;
keep us ready to welcome the day of your coming.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › Call from among us bearers of your presence;
may they go to the far ends of the earth
as tokens of your friendship and signs of your light.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › Give joy to all your faithful servants;
may they follow you all the days of their lives.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › Nurture within us your Spirit of love;
may we never close our hearts
to any of our sisters and brothers.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › Bring to an end the divisions between Christians;
gather us in one visible communion.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › Have mercy on all who suffer persecution
for your name's sake; uphold them by your strong Spirit,
that they may remain true to you in all their trials.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › Comfort all who are suffering in their hearts or in their
bodies; give them health and peace to sing of your power.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › We pray for all who are leading the nations;
give them a sense of what is right, that they may work
toward peace and fullness of life for all.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › Give eternal rest to all who are dying;
may the light that never sets shine upon them.
- » **Come to us in power, O Christ.**

- › And now, gathering all of our prayers into one,
we pray as our Savior has taught us, saying:
- » **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, 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.**

Please be praying for our mission partner Haiti Outreach Ministries. For 30 years, Haiti Outreach Ministries has been sharing the message of God's goodness with the people of Haiti through evangelism, education, and medical care.

INTERVIEW WITH MISSION PARTNER RICHARD HANEY

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 | REVELATION 22:1-7, 17, 20-21

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

SERMON | "WAITING FOR TRUE LIFE"

SENDING

"CHRIST IS COMING!"

Christ is coming! Let creation
From her groans and suffering cease.
Let the glorious proclamation
Hope restore and faith increase.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, thou blessed Prince of Peace.
Come, thou blessed Prince of Peace.

Though once cradled in a manger,
Oft no pillow but the sod.
Here an alien and a stranger,
Mocked of men, disowned of God.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, thou blessed Prince of Peace.
Come, thou blessed Prince of Peace.

Long thine exiles have been pining,
Far from rest, and home, and thee.
But, in heav'nly vestures shining,
They their loving Lord shall see.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Haste the joyous jubilee.
Haste the joyous jubilee.

With that blessed hope before us,
Let no harp remain unstrung.
Let the mighty advent chorus
Onward roll from tongue to tongue:
"Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!"

COMMISSION AND BLESSING | FROM REVELATION 22

- › Behold! Jesus is coming soon to judge the earth with righteousness and truth.
- » **He is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**
- › The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."
- » **And let the one who hears say, "Come," and let the one who is thirsty come;**
- › Let the one who desires take the water of life without price.
- » **Jesus is coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

POSTLUDE

Lauren and Bryce Auker, along with big sister Sophie, welcomed Brianne Mae on December 12, 2020. They are in the Gayton parish. We invite you to please pray for the Aukers as we rejoice in this good news.

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears_ and sins re - lease us, let us
yet_ a king, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy

find our rest_ in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own_ e - ter - nal Spir - it

hope of all_ the earth thou art: dear_ de - sire_ of
rule in all_ our hearts a - lone; by_ thine all - suf -

eve - ry na - - tion, joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.
- fi - cient mer - it raise us to_ thy glo - rious throne.

GOD WITH US



1. Oh, you've come to bring peace, to be love, to be near-
 2. Oh, you've come to be hope to this world for your hon -



- er to us. You've come to bring life, to be light,
 - or and name, and you've come to take sin, to bear shame,



— to shine bright - er in us. Oh, Em - man - u - el, God with—
 — and to con - quer the grave. Oh, Em - man - u - el, God with—



us. Our De - liv - er - er, you are Sav - ior. In your pres - ence we
 us.



find our strength. O - ver ev - 'ry - thing, our re - demp - tion, God with—



us, you are God with us. You are here.



You are ho - ly. We are stand - ing in your glo - ry.

CHRIST IS COMING!



1. Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from her groans and
 2. Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of thy bit - ter
 3. Though once cra - dled in a man - ger, oft no pil - low
 4. Long thine ex - iles have been pin - ing, far from rest, and
 5. With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, let no harp re -



suf - fering cease. Let the glor - ious proc - la - ma - tion
 cross and pain. She shall yet be - hold thy glo - ry,
 but the sod, here an al - ien and a stran - ger,
 home, and thee. But, in heav'n - ly ves - tures shin - ing,
 - main un - strung. Let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus



hope re - store and faith in - crease. Christ is
 when thou com - est back to reign. Christ is
 mocked of men, dis - owned of God. Christ is
 they their lov - ing Lord shall see. Christ is
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: "Christ is



com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Come, thou bless - ed
 com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re -
 com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Come, thou bless - ed
 com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Hasten the joy - ous
 com - ing! Christ is com - ing! Come, Lord Je - sus,



Prince of Peace. Come, thou bless - ed Prince of Peace.
 - peat the strain. Let each heart re - peat the strain.
 Prince of Peace. Come, thou bless - ed Prince of Peace.
 ju - bi - lee. Hasten the joy - ous ju - bi - lee.
 quick - ly come! Come, Lord Je - sus, quick - ly come!"