



Thank you for being people of HOPE! It's our heart in this season to release the hope of Jesus through our praise, prayers and petitions on behalf of others. Please use this guide however the Lord leads you during your time of prayer.

ENTERING IN – 5-10 MINUTES

Consider spending a few minutes quieting your soul before the Lord. One helpful tool can be to use a simple breath prayer. Get into a comfortable position, pay attention to your body and allow yourself to relax into this space. Consider closing your eyes to limit distractions, and then you can slowly pray the following scripture as you fix your eyes on the Lord..

Breathe In – *May your unfailing love surround us, Lord*

Breathe Out – *even as we put our hope in you. (Psalm 33:22)*

LISTENING FOR A PERSONAL WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT & HOPE – 15-20 MINUTES

May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

– 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Jesus himself longs to encourage your heart and strengthen you for all that this season holds. His voice is the one that sustains us in our weariness, helps us to renew our minds so that our thoughts match His, and who brings us the revelation of how He is at work to bring about good in all things. Consider spending some time journaling with the Lord around the following question:

Jesus, how do you want to strengthen and encourage my heart in this season? Do you have a specific scripture or word that you want me to meditate on as I listen for your voice? Jesus, do you have a word of hope or encouragement for those who are closest to me in this season? (Consider using the packet of promise/hope scriptures that are provided and the back page of this handout for journaling.)

Consider using this prayer as you enter into your time of listening:

*“O God, let us hear You.
Help us to listen, Lord, for our lives are loud.
We can barely hear ourselves think.*

*O God, let us hear You
with a willingness to understand
instead of demands to be understood.
Help us to listen, Lord, to the hurting
in our families and friends, and our neighbors and nations.*

*O God, let us hear You.
Help us be brave enough to get quiet,
to sit within the corners of our own hearts.
Lord, we tweet and shout, demanding to be heard
because we are too afraid of what we’ll hear if we stop.*

*O God, let us hear You
in the cries of our world.
Help us to stop talking so we may hear what You have to tell us
through the heartbeat of another.
O God, let us hear you.
Amen.*

INTERCESSION – 30-40 MINUTES

The act of intercession is standing in the gap as believers, crying out for the will of God—HIS HOPE, HEALING, RESTORATION, POWER, PROVISION, and LIFE—to be released to situations on the earth so it might be HERE as it is in HEAVEN. Hope is not a shallow optimism in the face of great hardship. It is an anchor (Hebrews 6: 19) choosing to say we will link arms with the one who is HOPE—Jesus—believing the promises of scripture that **nothing separates us from His love and He is actively working to bring good in all things.**

In this section we have included some scriptures and prayers from our staff here at Third. These are key scriptures that they are using to shape their intercession as we head into this year.

Pastor Kevin – A Prayer of HOPE from Isaiah 55

*O Lord, our God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we fill our bodies with rich food and sweet drinks
yet we still hunger and thirst for more---for You.
And so we praise You for reaching out to us
to replenish, renew and restore our lives.
From the Circle of Love you established
a new and eternal covenant of grace
through Jesus Christ, the Son, our Lord.
Through Him we see and find You, O God.
Through Him we call upon you and believe
that we are seen, heard and loved.
For through Him,
the distance between Your thoughts and our thoughts,
Your ways and our ways,
is spanned by Your love.*

Selah.

*Glory to You in the highest,
Bring peace to your people on earth.*

*Glory to You in the highest,
Bring HOPE to Your people in need.*

*Glory to You in the highest,
Bring love to Your people who long.*

*Our needs are massive, our wants endless,
our trust is growing, our confidence is rising.*

*Lord, hear our prayer,
for we forget ourselves and honor You.*

*This will be for Your renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever. Amen.*

Cathy Diehl – Hope for Children and Students

Matthew 21:16 - *“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?’”*

Psalm 8:2 - *Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.*

Jeremiah 33:3 - *Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.*

A Prayer for our Children and Students

Lord, we look with eyes of hope towards the coming generations. We celebrate that from the lips of children and infants you call forth a sound of praise that establishes STRONGHOLDS against the enemy and that SILENCES the foe and the avenger. We are praying that you would raise up an army of children to be deployed throughout the body of Christ—agents of the Kingdom that release your hope and life to the world around us. We bless our children with face to face encounters with you, O Lord, and as they call to you, you will you answer them, telling them great and unsearchable things that you pour out to them through your Holy Spirit’s wisdom and revelation. We declare that this generation is under the blood of Jesus, marked for the Kingdom, and that they will live into the destinies that heaven has written for them. We bless the children and students in our church family, community and region in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You are welcome to add your prayers for children and students below:

Klayton Korver – Hope for Restorative Justice

*“And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.”
-Micah 6:8*

The word justice throughout the scriptures carries the idea of “restorative justice”—restore to the way it should have been prior to our own rebellion.

- Justice: misphat: restorative justice. Act in a way that “restores.”
- Mercy: apply generosity, loyalty, and graciousness to that justice.
- Humility: total dependence on God, lacking pride in your own strength.

Andrew Murray says that the war of the cosmos is one between the pride of evil and the humility of the Lamb:

*“I cannot too greatly impress upon my readers the need of realizing the lack there is today of humility within Christian circles. There is so little of the meek and lowly Lamb of God in those who are called by His name. Let us consider how our lack of love, indifference to the needs and feelings of others, even sharp comments and hasty judgements that are often excused as straightforward, are **thwarting** the effect of the influence of the Holy Spirit on others.”*

A Prayer from Micah 6:8 and Philippians 2

Father, we take a moment to confess our pride and lack of love towards those that you love deeply. We confess that we are allowing the enemy to wage war within the body of Christ as we harbor anger and contempt towards our fellow brothers and sisters and deeply injure our witness to the world. We confess that we value our rightness above your righteousness and pray that we would humble ourselves as you demonstrated for us. May we do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility and meekness may we value others above ourselves, not looking to our own interest but each of us to the interests of others.

We are praying that your church would rise up as a humble, merciful, generous agent of restorative justice to the world. Crying out for your mercy and your solutions to the despairing injustices that surround us in this hour. Remind us of who our neighbor is, and may we lay down our lives in love for them just as you demonstrated for us, and have called us to do. We praise you that we don't labor in vain as we anchor ourselves in the ONE who is justice, mercy and HOPE for the earth in this hour.

You are invited to add your own prayers for HOPE and God's restorative justice in this space:

Steph Hietbrink - Hope for the Ends of the Earth

*Blessed are those you choose
and bring near to live in your courts!
We are filled with the good things of your house,
of your holy temple.*

You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,

***God our Savior,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,***

*who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,
who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.*

*The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.*

Psalm 65:4-8

In his name the nations will put their hope.

Matthew 12:21

A Prayer of Hope for the Nations

Father, we know that you alone are the hope of the world and we cry out that your glory would be revealed to the ends of the earth in this hour. Lord, we are praying that your awesome and righteous deeds of mercy, grace, healing and justice would be on display to every nation. We ask that in your power you would still the roaring and the turmoil that is at work all across the earth. Would you fill the earth with awe at your wonder and would songs of joy and Shalom begin to sound from the rising to the setting of the sun. We are crying out for the nations to put their hope in the name of Jesus alone.

Would you ask the Holy Spirit where He is inviting you to release HOPE across the earth today? Is there a particular nation, crisis, people group that He would have you stand in the gap for today?

Consider using this space to pen prayers for HOPE for...

Family/Friends

Third Church Community

The Church in America

Local, State and National Leaders

The Harvest – That lost would be found and prodigals would return

SCRIPTURES OF HOPE

Psalm 25:3–5 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for my hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 25:21 May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you.

Psalm 31:24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 33:17-18 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those who hope in his unfailing love.

Psalm 33:20 We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Psalm 33:22 May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Psalm 42:11 Why are you so downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.

Psalm 52:9 I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints.

Psalm 147:11 The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Micah 7:7 But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Zechariah 9:12 Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

Matthew 12:21 In his name the nations will put their hope.

Romans 4:18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Practical Ways to Spread Hope and Encouragement this Week

1. Mail a note of encouragement to someone
2. Buy lunch for a co-worker or friend
3. Ask God how you can bless your neighbor
4. Take the time to really thank people in the service industry
5. Send a gift card to someone who has been in a difficult season
6. Take a prayer walk around the hospital and pray for hope, life and healing
7. Fast from negativity and choose gratitude