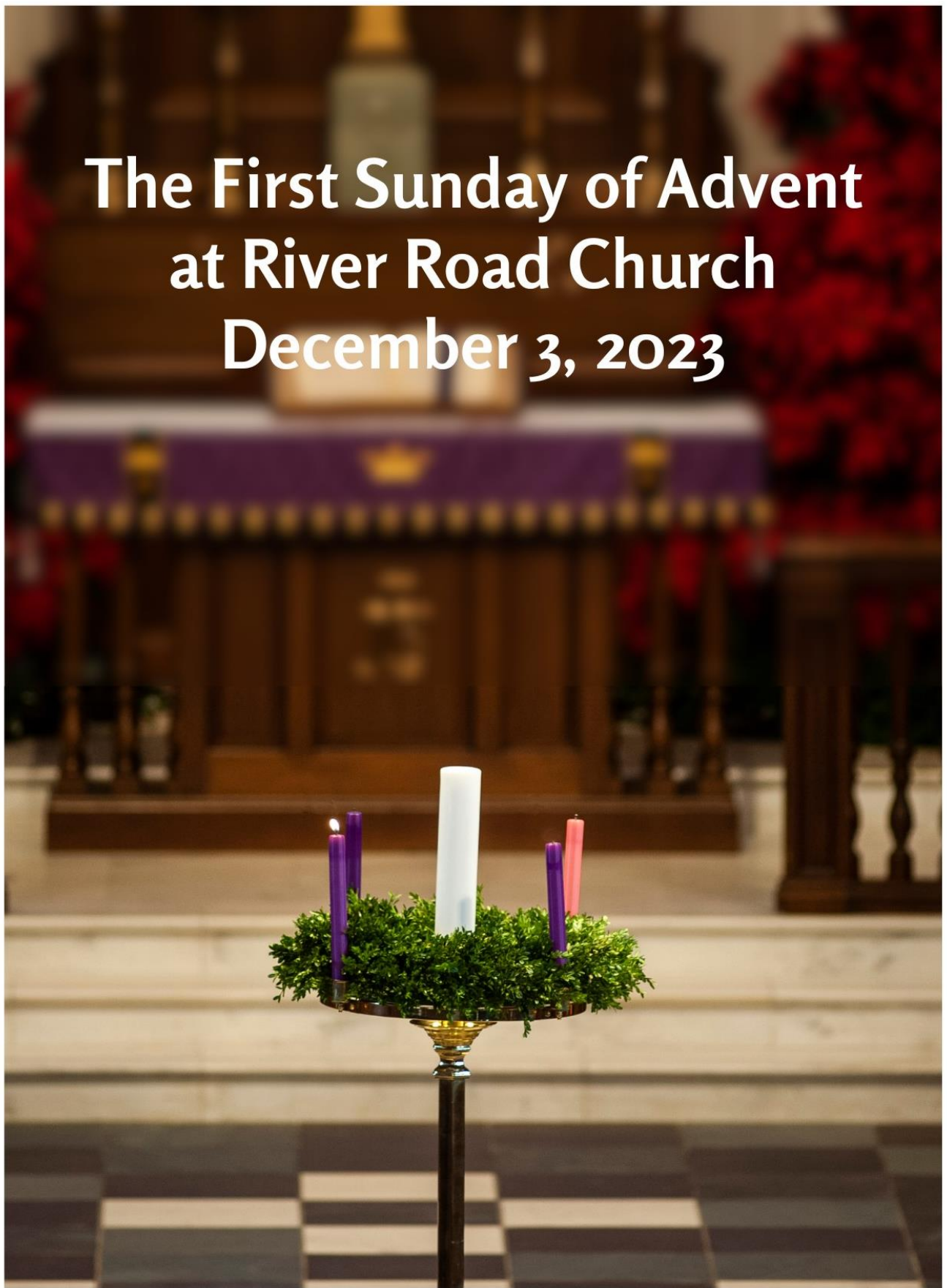


**The First Sunday of Advent
at River Road Church
December 3, 2023**



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Kenton Sumner, Amanda Rooney, and Ashley Glaze,
Acolytes

Voluntaries

Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 659
People, Look East

J. S. Bach
Robert Edward Smith

Dr. Robert Gallagher, organ

Introit

Thomas Pavlechko

Show the light of your countenance, O God, and we shall be saved.

*Processional Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5. O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

* Please stand, if you are able.

*Call to Worship

Beth Bailey

People, look east!

We look around us and see fear and hurt, anger and hardship.

People, look east! Prepare!

We need to prepare; to look for God!

Love, our guest, is coming into the world.

Even in the sadness? Even in the heartache?

Yes! Even where there is hatred and war. Even in places of distress and fear.

We look east and prepare! May we be ready to welcome God.

May the love of God dwell in us, filling our lives.

Prepare! We must prepare! God's love is our coming guest.

May our hope be renewed and our hearts ready to receive.

Welcome, Invocation, and Our 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9 (p. 606)

Diana Mahoney

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:24-37 (p. 826)

The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

*Antiphon for Advent—Hymn 12, stanza 1

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Children may meet Mrs. Sandy Rooney on the Chancel steps during the antiphon.

Children's Time

Sandy Rooney

Lighting of the Advent Candle

River Road Children's Ministry

The Advent wreath is a circle of evergreen, a sign of everlasting life and a symbol of God's never-ending love. Its four candles, encircling the Christ Candle, represent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We light the first candle as a sign of hope.

As a people of hope, let us bear witness to the hope that is eternal through Christ our Lord. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

*Hymn of Devotion 15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers (see last page)

LLANGLOFFAN

*Offertory Sentences

Beth Bailey

Anthem at Offertory

O Thou, the Central Orb

Charles Wood

O thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the Most High, eternal light
Of this our wintry world; thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith: hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine;
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.
Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin:
Our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

Sermon

A Weary World Hopes

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Celebration of Holy Communion

Beth Bailey

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body,

For hope that we begin to see,

And for comfort from the Prince of Peace,

We share our gratitude, Gracious God.

Encourage us in these shortened days.

Through the long nights of this season,

May your hope carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.

Written by Michelle L. Torigian, 2019

Sanctus

George Thalben-Ball

The Blessing and Giving of the Bread and Cup

Time of Reflection and Response

Take a moment to consider how the Spirit is leading you to respond to worship and the Word proclaimed this day.

*If you desire to follow Christ as a disciple, or if you desire to become a member of River Road Church,
you are invited to come forward to the chancel steps at this time, and our pastor will meet you.*

*Recessional Hymn 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (see last page)

HYFRYDOL

*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Daniel Glaze

Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

Voluntary

Prelude on "Hyfrydol"

Healey Willan

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT RIVER ROAD CHURCH

RRCB.ORG/ADVENT

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service of Worship & Holy Communion

December 3, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at youtube.com/riverroadchurch

THOUGHTFUL FAITH COMMUNITY

December 3, 2023, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Supper at 4:45 p.m.

Rev. Dr. William Bradley Roberts presenting

"Glimpses into Handel's *Messiah*" at 5:45 p.m.

ANNUAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CONCERT

River Road Chancel Choir with Orchestra

December 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Handel's *Messiah* Part I

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD SHARE

December 3, 2023

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MOVIE,

GAMES, & MORE

December 8, 2023, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service of Worship

December 10, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at youtube.com/riverroadchurch

THOUGHTFUL FAITH COMMUNITY

December 10, 2023, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Supper at 5:00 p.m.

Compassion in Community, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

RIVER ROAD CINEMA BUFFS

December 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Classic Christmas Movie and Discussion

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS

THEOLOGY ON TAP

December 14, 2023, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Home of the Whittys

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR

A King's Singers Christmas Concert

December 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets required; \$55/person

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service of Worship

December 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at youtube.com/riverroadchurch

THOUGHTFUL FAITH COMMUNITY

December 17, 2023, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Supper at 5:00 p.m.

Fireside Caroling & Hot Chocolate (Children and Adults), 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Youth Christmas Party, 5:15-7:00 p.m.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 21, 2023, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Home of the Rooneys

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service of Worship

December 24, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at youtube.com/riverroadchurch

CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY SERVICE OF

LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Food collection for Welborne Community Pantry

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT

AND HOLY COMMUNION

December 24, 2023 at 9:00 p.m.

Livestream at youtube.com/riverroadchurch



RIVER ROAD CHURCH
BAPTIST

+ thoughtful faith +

For more information about the events listed below and more, please read the *e-Spire* (emailed on Tuesdays), or visit rrcb.org/connect.

This Week @ RRCB:

- Sun, Dec 3 **First Sunday Food Share Drop Off**
Worship, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Sunday Reception, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
College Conversation, 12:00 p.m., Youth Area
Memorial Flower Calendar Sign Up, 12:00 p.m., Upper Commons
Board of Missions, 4:00 p.m., Assembly Room (Zoom option available)
River Road Camerata, 4:00 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Youth Choir, 4:35 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Carol Choir (Age 4 through Grade 1), 4:45 p.m., UC 232
Jubilate Choir (Grades 2-5), 4:45 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
Chancel Ringers, 5:00 p.m., Bell Room
TFC Supper, 4:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall
TFC: Children's Rec and Missions, 5:45 p.m., CA 122
TFC: Youth Group, 5:45 p.m., Youth Area
TFC Program: "Glimpses into Handel's Messiah", 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Concert Series: Handel's Messiah, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Mon, Dec 4 **Joyful Hearts**, 10:00 a.m., Founders Room (Zoom option available)
- Tue, Dec 5 **Yoga**, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room
- Wed, Dec 6 **Men's Group: The Huddle**, 8:30 a.m., Founders Room
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
Young Adults Sunago Series, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Meeting (Online)
- Thu, Dec 7 **Coordinating Group for Vitality**, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room
- Fri, Dec 8 **Christmas Decorating**, 8:30 a.m., Sanctuary
FLO Luncheon at The Hard Shell Restaurant, 11:30 a.m., Offsite
Kids Christmas Movie, Games, and More, 5:00 p.m., Assembly Room
- Sun, Dec 10 **Sunday School**, 9:45 a.m., Various Rooms
Worship, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and rrcb.org/live
Sunday Reception, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Memorial Flower Calendar Sign Up, 12:00 p.m., Upper Commons
Board of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation, 4:00 p.m., Parlor (Zoom option available)
Stephen Ministry, 4:00 p.m., UC 228 (Zoom option available)
River Road Camerata, 4:00 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Youth Choir, 4:35 p.m., Youth Rehearsal Room
Carol Choir (Age 4 through Grade 1), 4:45 p.m., UC 232
Jubilate Choir (Grades 2-5), 4:45 p.m., Main Rehearsal Room
Chancel Ringers, 5:00 p.m., Bell Room
TFC Supper, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
TFC: Children's Rec and Missions, 5:45 p.m., CA 122
TFC: Youth Group, 5:45 p.m., Youth Area
TFC Program: Compassion in Community, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ; thus, it is a season of both joyous and solemn expectation. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of a spirit of preparation.

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Vernon B. Richardson by their children.

The Christmas wreaths outside are given to the glory of God and in honor of Petty Officer Third Class Harry Phelps and all of his fellow sailors serving on the USS Gerald Ford in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea by Hilton and Margaret Almond.

We extend Christian sympathy to Levonne Cousins upon the death of her brother, Bruce Young, on November 16, 2023, in Mechanicsville, VA.

Following worship there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Board of Administration. The BOA oversees financial operations of the Church and manages Church property.

Child Sponsorship Table at the Reception—As part of our mission partnership with Food for the Hungry and BGAV, we will work alongside the Santa Rita Community in Nicaragua as they seek to develop and grow to overcome impoverished conditions. Part of our financial support will allow the opportunity to sponsor children in the community, communicating with them to build relationships and offer encouragement. You can visit our child sponsorship table during the reception after worship in the Fellowship Hall and speak with Judy Collins or Norma Hays to learn more.

2024 Memorial Flower Calendar—Anyone interested in reserving a Sunday on the 2024 Memorial Flower Calendar is invited to see Betsy Lowery in the Upper Commons during the reception on Sundays, December 3, 10, and 17. The cost of the flowers is \$90. When you sign up, Betsy will give you a letter of explanation and the form needed for your wording. If you have any other questions, please call Betsy. The Sign Up Genius with remaining dates will open in January.

River Road Preschool's Four-Year-Old and Junior Kindergarten classes are exploring Christmas customs with a trip around the world! With the wreath and its history as a foundation for their display, please stop by the exhibit cabinet in the Lower Commons to see their artistic designs and the traditions they represent.

Thoughtful Faith Community—Sunday, December 10

Menu: Oven Fried Chicken OR Bean Cake (V); Salad Bar (V, GF); Rosemary Roasted Red Potatoes (V, GF); Steamed Broccoli (V, GF); Hot Rolls OR GF Bread; Apple Turnovers (V) OR GF Brownie
Snack Supper: Personal Pizza; Salad; Apple Turnovers (V)



Dinner reservations are required by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7. Make your reservation by scanning the QR code, filling out the form at rrcb.org/supper, or calling the church office. Cost is based on meal selection and age.

TFC Program: Compassion in Community

Beginning in table conversation about our concerns as we approach the holiday season, we will consider what may stand in the way of joy this year. We will acknowledge our concerns before God, moving into the chancel area for our Starlight service, during which we will, together, hold our lives and needs before the Lord.

When You Wish Upon A Star: A King's Singers Christmas—On Saturday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m., Virginia Arts Festival is pleased to present The King's Singers at River Road Church, Baptist. **Tickets for this concert are on sale now and only available online via Virginia Arts Festival at rrcb.org/kings.** Tickets are \$55 per person, however, *e-Spire* subscribers can purchase tickets at a discounted price via promo code in our weekly email newsletter.

Wrap up warm for an extra-special Christmas with The King's Singers, as they perform festive music from their recent travels across the world, remember their spiritual home at King's College, Cambridge, and celebrate some of the most important musical anniversaries of the last year - including 400 years of the great English composer, William Byrd, and 100 years of Disney magic.



RIVER ROAD CHURCH

BAPTIST

+ thoughtful faith +

Thank you for worshipping with us!
At River Road Church, we are...

A community of believers coming from many faith traditions to worship and grow together in Christian fellowship, focusing on those aspects of faith on which we can agree rather than disagree as we journey together.

Baptist in heritage, espousing core Baptist truths as foundational to our faith journey: the centrality of Christ, the priesthood of all believers, Scripture as our foundation, a commitment to theological education, the autonomy of the local church, and the separation of church and state.

Encouraging of intellectual freedom—in pursuit of a thoughtful faith, seeking always to learn about God’s nature and ways in the world, supporting a free pulpit and welcoming intellectually challenging sermons and educational programs.

Worshipping in reverence and beauty a transcendent God, following the liturgical style and augmented by the performance of traditional sacred music.

Serving God in our church, our community and the world by investing our energy and resources in ways that reflect the character and likeness of Christ and follow his teachings.

River Road Church *Baptist*

8000 River Road
Richmond, Virginia 23229
804.288.1131 rrcb.org

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Daniel E. Glaze, D.Min., *Pastor*
F. David Breckenridge, D.Min., *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Marnie L. Fisher-Ingram, M.Div., *Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families*
Robert P. Gallagher, D.M.A., *Minister of Music*
Daniel H. Ingram, M.Div., *Minister of Administration*
Anna Perry Miller, M.A.C.E., *Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship*
Sandy K. Rooney, M.Ed., *Minister to Children and Their Families*
Beth Bailey, M.T., *Seminary Intern for Young Adult Ministry*

James H. Slatton, Th.D., *Pastor Emeritus* Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ph.D., *Pastor Emeritus*
E. Carl Freeman, Jr., Mus.B., *Minister of Music Emeritus*
Chester L. Phelps, Jr., M.A., *Minister of Youth Emeritus*

*Hymn of Devotion 15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
and soon he will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation;
at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning;
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand;
arise, O heirs of glory;
the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou sun so longed for,
above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption,
and ever be with thee!

*Recessional Hymn 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

1. 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.

2. 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.