



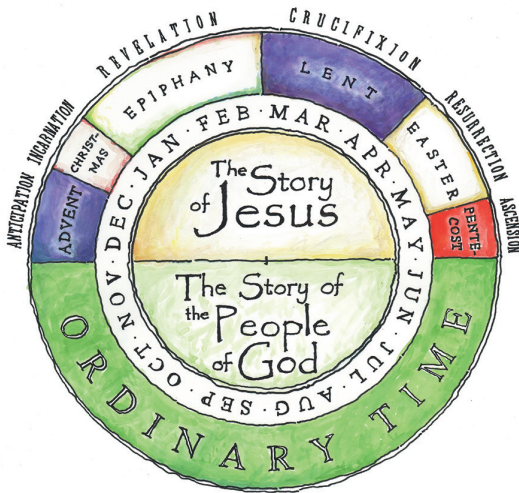
STEWARDING CREATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019

"Christian stewardship is formed upon the understanding that it is sinful for people to misuse or destroy what they did not make. The creation is a unique, irreplaceable gift, therefore to be used with humility, respect and skill."

WENDELL BERRY

SANCTUARY DECORATIONS



As followers of Jesus, we “tell time differently” with a calendar shaped by the story of God’s works of salvation and renewal. Not only do we mark the seasons of the Christian year through the readings and music in our worship service, we also use colors and textures to enrich our space and experience of worship.

We are in the six-month period of Ordinary Time when we remember the story of God’s people as told throughout the Old and New Testaments. In Ordinary Time we are reminded that we are part of a great community of believers throughout time and history that has been called together to bear witness to God’s promises and presence in the world, finally fulfilled in Jesus and his kingdom. The color of this season is green, representing the way God is at work sustaining even the small, ordinary rhythms we experience year by year in his creation, and the way God is calling and empowering his Church to join in the work of renewing all things.

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
(Stephen Aber)

Jeff Hummel

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

From Psalm 39:7

Leader: But now, Lord, what do I look for?

People: My hope is in you.

Silent Preparation for Worship

Let's quiet our hearts in preparation for worship.

† Call to Worship

Leader: God is King! Let the earth be glad!

People: Christ is victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!

Leader: The Spirit is at work, renewing the creation.

People: Praise the Lord!

Prayer of Adoration

† Song of Praise

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#19 in the Hymnal

† *The cross indicates standing, as you are able.*

GATHERING

† Song of Praise

"Famous One" Refrain and Responsive Readings



1. You _____ are the Lord, _____ the fa - mous One,
2. The heav - ens de - clare _____ you're glo - ri - ous,



fa - mous One; great _____ is your name in all _____ the earth. _____
glo - ri - ous; great _____ is your fame be - yond _____ the earth. _____

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Jesse Reeves
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Responsive Reading

From Psalm 95:3-5

Leader: For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Refrain

Responsive Reading

From Isaiah 45:8

Leader: "You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down.
Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up,
let righteousness flourish with it; I, the LORD, have created it."

Refrain

Responsive Reading

From Colossians 1:15-17

Leader: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

People: For in him all things were created:

Leader: Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers
or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Everyone: He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Refrain

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Song of Confession
(11:15 service only)

"Mercy"
(Courtney/Boersma)

Choir

I dare not lift my guilty eyes. I hide my lips in trembling shame.
And in the darkness of my soul, I shrink from your rekindling flame.
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison; have mercy.

In mercy, cover me with grace and blot out my iniquity.
Renew my heart and wash me clean; grant with your pardon purity.
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison; have mercy.

In equal measure of your love you promise mercy,
Tender compassion to the one who seeks your face.
A broken heart, a fainting soul, a contrite spirit
Together cry for your forgiveness and your grace.
Against you only have I sinned. My deeds are evil in your sight.
Of your forgiveness let me sing, and in my singing take delight.

Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison; have mercy,
Have mercy, have mercy.

CONFESSING

Prayer of Confession

Leader: When humans no longer steward God's world, all creation suffers.

**People: We abuse the creation or idolize it.
We are estranged from our Creator,
from our neighbor, and from all that God has made.**

Leader: Therefore let us confess our sins.

Silent Confession

Words of Comfort

From Psalm 103:11–13

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him.

**People: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

Leader: As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

People: Thanks be to God!

Joining of new Covenant Partners (11:15 service only)

Judy Boland (Ridge) and Jesse and Elizabeth Kell (City South)

† Greeting of Peace

As a new spiritual family reconciled to one another through Christ, offer to one another a sign of peace: a handshake, a hug, or even just a smile. You could say something simple like "Peace be with you," or just simply, "Peace."

THANKSGIVING

Our Offerings

From 1 Chronicles 29:14

Leader: Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?

**People: For all things come from you
and what we now offer is already yours.**

Pray for our mission partners Colin and Norma Peckham as they serve with Artists in Christian Testimony International and lead their arts ministry in South Africa and Scotland. They work with local churches, organizations and prisons to present evangelistic outreach events and events aimed at church unity using choirs, bands, orchestras and dramatic presentations.

Mission Partner Interview with Ray Heinen of SAT-7

† 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

God speaks to us through his word.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:24–28, 2:15 | Romans 8:18-21

²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our triune God, in giving us dominion over all things you made us coworkers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence to steward faithfully what you have given, for the glory of your name and the benefit of generations to come. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for all farmers and workers of the land, and for the harvest of their labor that you provide and we enjoy. Grant them them wisdom to face the many challenges of modern agriculture, protection from disaster, danger and drought, and courage and wisdom to steward the land in a way that honors your ownership. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all those suffering in body, soul and mind, grant them humility to receive strength and power from you, a willing dependence on the love and help of others, a peaceful awareness of your presence in trial, and a joyful anticipation of the quickly approaching day when you will redeem our bodies along with all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the silence of our own hearts, we lift up the names of those who especially need your help.

Silent prayer

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.

Prayer Needs

For health: Laurie Marsden, Lynn Pendleton, Danny Yacher, Joe Keller, Eileen Raynor, Pam Smith, Mary Ann Hancock, Frances Eichost, Brad Bishop, Noel and Stephanie Brooks, David Hacker, Julie Walden, Christie Geraty, Milton Jones

For comfort for those who have lost loved ones: Russ Corson, Laura Blacano (wife, grandmother, Wilma 10/21); Cindy Cave (mother, 10/19); Christine Darby (brother, 10/10); Arthur McCray (father, 10/11); Dean and Peggy Dennis, Carrie Henaghan (grandson, nephew, 9/28); Gay Plack (9/17); Stan Button (9/12)

For Metro Richmond: We pray for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in metropolitan Richmond: for emergency shelters, women's shelters, clinics, and feeding programs; for recreation programs, youth programs, juvenile counseling, and young people's shelters.

SENDING

† **Song of Commission** “How Great Thou Art” #553 in the Hymnal

† **Commission and Benediction**

Leader: Our world, broken and scarred, still belongs to God.

People: He holds it together and gives us hope.

Leader: With the whole creation we wait for the King to make all things new.

People: For then we will see the Lord face to face.

Leader: God will be all in all, righteousness and peace will flourish,
everything will be set right,

**People: And every eye will see at last that our world belongs to God!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus.**

Postlude “Cortege” Jeff Hummel
(11:15 service only) (Gordon Young)

SERVICE NOTES

Today’s flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jerry Ramsey, by his wife Patty and his family.

Today’s video was directed by Nathan Clarke. The director of photography was John Harrison, the soundtrack by Cinecue, and executive producers were Andy Crouch and Harold Smith. Grips were Taylor MacKillop and Will Rogers. Coproducers were Katelyn Beaty, Christy Tennant Krispin, Vicki Howard, Skye Jethani, David Neff, Terumi Echols, Mark Galli, and Ted Olsen. © 2012 Christianity Today

NEWS & EVENTS

Today! Pick up your *Entrusted* stewardship devotional

During our stewardship sermon series, we are using this free six-week daily devotional guide to deepen our understanding of stewardship in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, and its implications for our lives. These free devotionals can be picked up around the church.

Today! Local Missions Fair – Fellowship Hall

This morning we will have the exciting opportunity to get to know our local mission partners. Come to the Fellowship Hall to learn about these ministries, their work in our city, and how we can support them and serve with them as individuals, families and parish groups. Drop by before or after a service!

Today! Meet Our Mission Partner: Lunch with Ray Heinen of SAT-7 12:30 p.m., Room 101

Come to this (free!) lunch today in Room 101 to hear an update on this innovative ministry. SAT-7 is a family of five Christian satellite TV channels in the Middle East and North Africa since 1996, broadcasting God's love in three languages (Arabic, Farsi and Turkish), with over 22 million TV viewers. No RSVP necessary, just come!

Local Mission Event: An Evening with Rev. Ben Campbell Friday, November 1, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Come hear Rev. Ben Campbell offer a 2019 epilogue to his book, *Richmond's Unhealed History*, and reflect on its implications for our current day.

College and Adult Mexico Mission Trip – June 28 – July 4, 2020

After years of what has been solely a Student Ministry mission trip, we are hoping to have a second team comprised of college students and adults. These two teams will be at base camp together, eat together, and worship together but have working teams, with the goal to build at least two houses for Mexican families in need. Apply by November 17 at thirdrva.org/events.

Now Hiring at Third!

We are currently hiring for two positions at Third: Associate Director of Family Ministry (Nursery and Preschool focus), and Associate Director of Parish Ministry. For more information on these roles, and to apply, visit: thirdrva.org/employment. Third's search process is available and open to all qualified candidates from within and outside the church body. We look forward and pray for the Lord to lead us to the candidates that best fit the positions.

FAMILY & STUDENT MINISTRY

During 8:45 and 11:15 a.m. services: Childcare is available for all children aged Kindergarten and younger. First grade and above attend worship with their parents.

Infants, toddlers, 2 year olds	First Floor
Young 3s–Kindergarten	Second Floor

During the 10:00 service: Children are welcome to attend worship with their parents or Sunday school:

Infants, toddlers, 2 year olds	First Floor
Young 3s–4th Grade	Second Floor
5th–6th Grade (Club56)	Basement
Middle and High School	Student Ministry Area (First Floor)

Need help? Look for volunteers wearing gold or blue name badges. They can help answer your questions, find where to take your kids, and guide you around our building.

Student Ministry: Sunday Night Gatherings

Students in 7th–12th grade are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings. This week, our small groups will be meeting offsite in an effort to help our students live missionally. Want to learn more? Contact rickh@thirdrva.org or andreaw@thirdrva.org.

THIS WEEK AT THIRD

- 29 Tuesday** **Women’s Weekly Morning Study**
9:30 a.m., Room 213 (joyce.koontz@gmail.com)
- 30 Wednesday** **Freedom Road Recovery Community**
6:30 p.m., Conference Room, 500 Forest Ave (merryoh@gmail.com)

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Our new season of adult Sunday school classes has started! If you've never checked out our Sunday morning classes, it's the perfect time to start. All classes meet at 10:00 a.m. For full class descriptions, visit: thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship.

Delta: Young Adult Community and Conversation

Room 217

Are you in your 20–30s or college age and looking for a place to connect with others and grow at Third? Join us for coffee, conversation and teaching on how to connect faith to daily life, work, relationships and culture.

Good News Class

Room 101

Expository Bible teaching of the Gospel of Mark in the tradition of inductive Bible study. Our teachers ask the three classic questions of each text: (i) what does it say; (ii) what did it mean to them (the original audience); and (iii) what does it mean to us? This class is centered on understanding and applying God's word for his glory and our growth as his people.

Study of Acts

Room 213

The Reveal Class will continue our study of the book of Acts, exploring through UP, IN and OUT observations the missionary themes that Luke narrates. The mission of God's people always involves our theology, our community, and our outreach.

Metamorphosis Class

Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

We are a diverse community seeking God's healing and wholeness for the brokenness in our lives and families through safe, authentic Christian relationships. This fall, we'll read *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. We'll examine how our brokenness can be the springboard for spiritual growth, no matter what half of life we are in.

Questions about our Sunday school classes? Contact Derek Mondeau at derekm@thirdrva.org.

2019 BUDGET UPDATE

2019 Total Annual Budget
\$4,003,155

September YTD Giving Budget
 \$2,538,000

September YTD Giving Actual
 \$2,429,308

(difference: \$108,692)



As we begin to close out 2019 and prepare our budget for 2020, we want to share with our church family how the Lord is providing for our finances this year. We are grateful for his provision thus far, and look to him in the weeks to come.

Year-to-date giving through September was \$2,429,308, which is approximately \$108,692, or 4.3% short of budgeted expectations. It is worth noting that our annual giving budget remains heavily dependent on November and December giving as, historically, close to 30% of our annual giving occurs during these two months. We faithfully rest in God's grace and provision, and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to stir our hearts with overflowing and joyful generosity to meet the commitments to which God has called us.

We give praise for God's faithfulness and generosity and invite you to pray that our financial gifts will empower Third's ministry and mission at Forest Avenue, in Richmond and around the world. Your gifts have Kingdom impact.

WELCOME!

¡Bienvenido! 欢迎! مرحباً Добро пожаловать!

We're so glad you're here.

1. CONNECT WITH US

If you're new with us, we'd love to get to know you. Fill out one of the Connect Cards in front of you and drop it in the offering plate, and we'll be in touch.

2. LEARN ABOUT THIRD

Feel free to stop by our welcome table in the hallway off the front of the Sanctuary to learn more about our community. For more information, visit our website at thirdrva.org.

3. FIND COMMUNITY

Our parish groups provide the opportunity for each person at Third to grow in our relationship with God, build authentic community, love our actual neighbors and bless our city. Find a group meeting near you at thirdrva.org/parish-life.