

**Third**  
CHURCH

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*Called together for the renewal of all things through Jesus Christ.*

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# STEWARDING OUR GIFTS

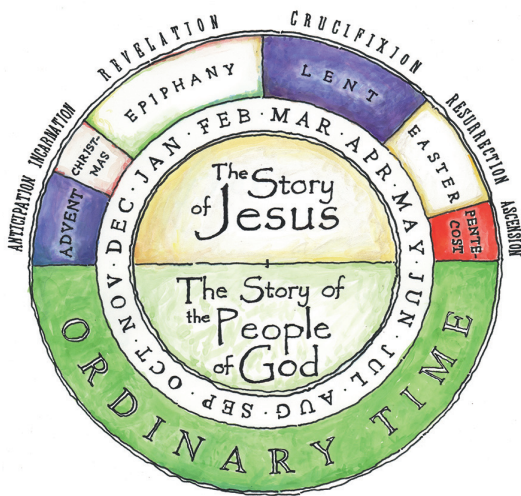
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

*"Stewardship is the act of organizing your  
life so that God can spend you."*

LYNN A. MILLER

## SANCTUARY DECORATIONS

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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

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*God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.*

**Prelude** "Toccata in G Major" Jeff Hummel  
(William Walond)

### Welcome and Announcements

**Preparation for Worship** From Psalm 62:1

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence;

**People: From him comes my salvation.**

**Choral Preparation** "For God Alone I Wait" Choir  
**(11:15 service)** (Hopson)

For God alone I wait. I wait in silence. I wait in silence.

### Silent Preparation for Worship

† **Call to Worship** From Psalm 62

Leader: Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.

**People: Truly he is our rock and our salvation;  
he is our fortress, we will never be shaken.**

Leader: Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.

**People: Truly he is our rock and our salvation;  
he is our fortress, we will not be shaken.**

Leader: My salvation and honor depend on God;  
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

**People: Trust in him at all times, you people;  
pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.**

### Prayer of Adoration

† **Songs of Praise** "O Worship the King" #2 in the Hymnal  
"Great Are You, Lord" Music on page 4

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

# GREAT ARE YOU, LORD

## Verse

Verse

You give life. You are love. You bring  
light to the dark - ness. You give hope. You re -  
store ev - 'ry heart that is bro - ken.

And great are you, Lord.

The verse is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'You give life. You are love. You bring'. The second line contains 'light to the dark - ness. You give hope. You re -'. The third line contains 'store ev - 'ry heart that is bro - ken.'. The fourth line contains 'And great are you, Lord.' and ends with a double bar line.

## Chorus

Chorus

It's your breath in our lungs, so we  
pour out our praise, we pour out our praise. It's your  
breath in our lungs, so we

*Fine*

pour out our praise to you on - ly.

The chorus is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'It's your breath in our lungs, so we'. The second line contains 'pour out our praise, we pour out our praise. It's your'. The third line contains 'breath in our lungs, so we'. The fourth line contains 'pour out our praise to you on - ly.' and ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine' written above the staff.

2

Bridge

And all the earth will shout your praise. Our

hearts will cry, these bones will sing, —

"Great are you,

Lord!" *re*

Words and Music by: Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan and David Leonard;  
© 2012 Integrity's Alleluia! Music; CCLI License # 706798

## CONFESSING

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### Call to Confession

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, an-swer me. O

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me. O

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece ends with a 'fine' marking.

### Prayer of Confession

**Leader:** Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offense against you.

**People:** **You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.**

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you.

**People:** **Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### Silent Confession

## CONFESSING

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### Words of Comfort

Leader: Hear these words of favor, O children of God:  
all these sins you have truly repented of,  
he has eternally forgiven.  
They will never be held against you.  
You are free to love and to serve him in joyful assurance,  
knowing his grace will always be more than sufficient  
to your own failings.

**People: Thanks be to Christ for this glorious gift!**

### † 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

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### **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.**

Please pray for our mission partners Paul and Reinhild Sydnor and for their ministry of activating local churches in France to minister to refugees.

### **Interview with mission partners Gregg and Kathryn Donley**

#### **† 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

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*God speaks to us through his word.*

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:14–30 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**



## RESPONDING

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### **Prayer of Lament and Intercession**

Leader:     ○ Lord, hear our cry! You are our refuge and our strength, a present help in the time of trouble. Your power to save knows neither limit nor boundary; the arm of your might will never bend or break. We call on your power to save us today.

**Everyone:   God, this is the day of salvation!**

Leader:     Father, we acknowledge that 400 years have passed since hundreds of African men and women were stolen from their homeland and forced to make a deadly voyage across the ocean. We grieve for the lives that were lost before arrival—the mothers, fathers, daughters and sons. We grieve for them and for the millions of African lives that were lost in the deadly Middle Passage over the two hundred years that followed.

**Everyone:   Father, have mercy on us.**

Leader:     Lord Jesus, we recall the twenty men and women who survived the voyage, only to be sold into slavery once their feet touched dry land. We grieve for them and also for the hundreds of thousands of Africans bought and sold on this land, including here in our city. We remember the men, women and children whose culture, language, heritage, and dignity were stripped from them mercilessly.

**Everyone:   Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.**

Leader:     Holy Spirit, we remember that even after slavery's end, its legacy and power persisted through unjust laws, intimidation, and the hostility of human hearts. Over the years, dreams were stolen, lives were lost, freedoms robbed, and rights refused. Your gospel of grace, liberation and reconciliation has been diminished and denied.

**Everyone:   Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.**

*Let's take a moment to silently reflect on the racial sins and sorrows of our land.*

### **Silent Reflection**

## RESPONDING

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Leader:       ○ Lord, hear our prayer! Forgive the sins of our nation and have mercy on our land. Destroy the evil that still holds us in its grasp. Save us from demonic powers that exalt one race over others. Redeem and release us from ignorance, selfishness, shame and fear. We renounce any agreement your Church has made with the kingdom of darkness that exalts power, wealth, and control above the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Come quickly, we pray, to revive us and make us new.

**Everyone:   Father, bring your salvation and justice!**

Leader:       ○ Lord, hear our prayer! Jesus Christ, you came for us, you lived for us, you died for us, you rose for us. You put to death all human hostility through your death on the cross to unite us and make us one through your grace. You have risen to life for our forgiveness, renewal and hope. Release your resurrection power among us to heal our land, our city, and our hearts.

**Everyone:   Lord Jesus, bring your salvation and justice!**

Leader:       ○ Lord, hear our prayer! Spirit of God, grant us the heart to weep with those who weep. Give us empathy and understanding. Create trust where there is pain. Give us the grace to persevere, to repent, to forgive, and to love. Empower us to love each other as Christ loved us—with humility and strength. Make your church—the church of metro Richmond—the united people you want us to be.

**Everyone:   Holy Spirit, bring your salvation and justice!**

Leader:       We long, ○ Lord, for your kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

### **The Lord's 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

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**For health:** Terry Jones, Pam Smith, Laurie Marsden, Lynn Pendleton, Danny Yacher, 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:** June Keller (husband, Joe, 11/11); Lynne Hildebrand (brother, 10/27); Russ Corson, Laura Blacano (wife and grandmother, Wilma, 10/21); Cindy Cave (mother, 10/19); Arthur McCray (father, 10/11); Christine Darby (brother, 10/10); Dean and Peggy Dennis, Carrie Henaghan (grandson, nephew, 9/28); Gay Plack (9/17); Stan Button (9/12)

**For Metro Richmond:** We pray for persons in financial need in metropolitan Richmond: for healthy marriages; for constructive, safe, and caring households for the bringing up and nurturing of children and caring for the elderly.

## SENDING

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### † Song of Commission

“Psalm 126 (Although We Are Weeping)”

Our mouths, they were filled, filled with laughter;  
Our tongues, they were loosed, loosed with joy.  
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing  
The seeds of your kingdom for the day you will reap them.  
Your sheaves we will carry; Lord, please do not tarry.  
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy.*

The nations will say, “He has done great things!”  
The nations will sing songs of joy.  
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!

### † Commission and Benediction

From 1 Peter 4:8–11

Leader: The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

**Everyone: To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever!**

**Postlude  
(11:15 service only)**

“Trumpet Tune in D Major”  
(David Johnson)

Jeff Hummel

## SERVICE NOTES

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**Today’s flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Joe Keller.

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Today! Congregational Meeting – 12:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

Following our 11:15 a.m. service, we'll meet as a congregation to elect our new class of incoming officers (deacons, shepherding and governing elders, trustees). We'll also be sharing an update about our upcoming capital campaign. The meeting will start promptly after the 11:15 a.m. service ends.

### **Family Advent Celebration – Sunday, December 1, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

On December 1, instead of our usual Sunday school (for children ages 4-4th grade), we're hosting a special gathering to kick off the season of Advent together and prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth. Children and their parents should plan to attend the 8:45 or 11:15 a.m. service, and then meet us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. No need to register!

### **Women's Christmas Dinner – Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Join the women of Third for this special evening of good food, fellowship and a reflection during the Advent season. The dinner is free, but we ask that you bring a dish to share, bring a small gift to donate to the Covenant Woods stocking stuffer gift drive, and RSVP via the link on our website. More info at: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).

### **CAC and Third Potluck – Saturday, November 23, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. 1701 Cardwell Road, Crozier**

Join us for this potluck, a chance to eat with our brothers and sisters from the Christian Arabic Church and deepen our relationships together. The CAC is excited to host us as they have been hard at work on many improvements including a Prayer Trail, soccer field and volleyball court. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We'll have a bonfire, s'mores and activities for kids!

### **STEP Christmas Store – Now Accepting Donations!**

Our mission partner STEP is collecting donations of new, unwrapped children's gifts (with the original purchase price intact) to be marked to half price or less and made available to parents living in Gilpin Court. Recommended gifts: stuffed animals, arts and crafts items, sports equipment, blocks, electronics, toy cars, African-American dolls, educational toys and gift cards to fast food restaurants. All donations can be placed in the shelf across from the infant nursery by December 4.

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Today! Meet Our Mission Partners: The Donleys Following the Congregational Meeting, Room 101**

Come to this (free!) lunch to hear an update on Gregg and Kathryn Donley's ministry with WEC International. Gregg spends much of his time overseas evangelizing the lost, discipling young Christians and pastors, and working to coordinate efforts for greater effectiveness and fruitfulness among Unreached Displaced Peoples. Come learn about this ministry and get to know them! No RSVP needed.

### **Important Information for Donating Stock To Third**

If you would like to donate stock, you may provide your broker with the following information:

TD Ameritrade Account # 427-607640

Agent: David Hamilton (DTC # 0188)

804-893-5601 | David.Hamilton@tdameritrade.com

**Note:** Please contact Lynley Steadman (lynleys@thirdrva.org) to notify her of the transfer and include the name of the stock and the number of shares. Our broker can no longer tell us who made the donation.

### **Dessert and Dialogue: Loving our friends with mental illness Monday, November 18, 6:30 p.m., 500 Forest (church office building) kitchen**

Let's come together to learn so we can love our neighbors and family members who have mental illness. We'll begin to talk about what loving someone with mental illness looks like, what we might do to help destigmatize mental illness, and share stories of hope and experience. Please come be part of starting the conversation and fellowship.



## *FAMILY & STUDENT MINISTRY*

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**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.

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### **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. Want to learn more? Contact Rick ([rickh@thirdrva.org](mailto:rickh@thirdrva.org)) or Andrea ([andreaw@thirdrva.org](mailto:andreaw@thirdrva.org)).

## *THIS WEEK AT THIRD*

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- 19 Tuesday**      **Women’s Weekly Morning Study**  
9:30 a.m., Room 213 ([joyce.koontz@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.koontz@gmail.com))
- Women’s Lunch Group**  
1:00 p.m., Kitchen, 500 Forest Ave ([mgdhale@yahoo.com](mailto:mgdhale@yahoo.com))
- 20 Wednesday**      **Freedom Road Recovery Community**  
6:30 p.m., Conference Room, 500 Forest Ave ([merryoh@gmail.com](mailto:merryoh@gmail.com))
- 21 Thursday**      **Healing Prayer Group**  
6:30 p.m., Student Ministry Area ([denamnelson@yahoo.com](mailto:denamnelson@yahoo.com))

## SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

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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](http://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](mailto:derekm@thirdrva.org).*

## 2019 BUDGET UPDATE

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**2019 Total Annual Budget**  
**\$4,003,155**

October YTD Giving Budget  
\$2,854,250

October YTD Giving Actual  
\$2,693,285

*(difference: \$160,965)*



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 October was \$2,693,285, which is approximately \$160,965, or 5.6% 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.

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## 1. LEARN ABOUT THIRD

Visit our website ([thirdrva.org](http://thirdrva.org)), sign up for our ministry emails ([thirdrva.org/signup](http://thirdrva.org/signup)), and pick up a copy of Third Press, our monthly newsletter, from around the church.

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## 2. JOIN US FOR COFFEE

Join us for our Welcome Coffee today at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. You'll meet a few people and learn about Third's vision and beliefs, and how you can get involved.

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## 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](http://thirdrva.org/parish-life).