

WAITING FOR THE
TRUE KING

————— WAITING FOR THE KING —————

CHRISTMASTIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

“But [the Magi] are convinced that [Jesus] is divinely appointed to be a King.

This thought alone, deeply rooted in their minds, procures their reverence.

They contemplate in the purpose of God his exalted rank, which is still concealed from outward view. Holding it for certain, that he will one day be different from what he now appears, they are not at all ashamed to render to him the honours of royalty.”

JOHN CALVIN

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

Worship Team

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

From Isaiah 30:15

Leader: In returning and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and in trust is your strength.

People: **Amen.**

Silent Preparation for Worship

† Call to Worship

From Isaiah 9:2 and John 1:14

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

People: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of Adoration

† Songs of Praise

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"Angels We Have Heard On High"

#76 in the Hymnal
#82 in the Hymnal

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

CONFESSING

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Generous God,
you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself,
but often we find it hard to take notice;
we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received.

People: **Forgive us, generous God,
for the casual way we treat your gift of love.
Cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.**

Silent Confession

Words of Comfort

Leader: People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate,
the Lord has comforted and redeemed us too!

People: **In Christ we receive the salvation of our God.
Glory to God in the highest!**

† 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.**

Please pray for our mission partner Carolyn Rennie in her ministry of care and discipleship in Romania and during her visit here through this holiday season.

Offertory

"Away in a Manger (Forever Amen)"

Worship Team

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes:
The dawn of salvation beginning to break.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, oh gift from above,
The King of the heavens forever with us.

I worship you, Jesus, for all of my days;
The highest of praises be unto your name.
My God and my Savior, my King and my friend,
Yours is the glory forever, amen!

† 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

Matthew 2:1–12

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for out of you will come a ruler
 who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONDING

† Song of Response

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

#93 in the Hymnal

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Leader: Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son; though we have not deserved such a gift, you have given him to us in love. We ask that you would be with those who are struggling or suffering, those for whom this time of year is so difficult. Please bring your peace and comfort to all who need it, that they would know your love for them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the true King and are worthy of all worship and praise. Help us to live our lives under your loving rule, working for righteousness and justice that we would be changed; that those we encounter would be changed; and that your world would be changed to reflect your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Holy Spirit, thank you that you are working in us, changing us more and more into the image of Jesus. Help us not to resist your work, but to join in what you’re doing. We ask this so that Jesus’ kingdom would advance here on earth and God’s will be done as it is in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our 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: Bradley Crawford, Randy Raggio, Elaine Turner, Cheryl Fluckiger, Terry Jones, Pam Smith, Laurie Marsden, Lynn Pendleton, Eileen Raynor, Pam Smith, Brad Bishop, Noel and Stephanie Brooks, David Hacker, Julie Walden, Christie Geraty, Milton Jones

For comfort for those who have lost loved ones: Frances Eichost (11/20); Janice Allen (father, 11/12; mother, 9/28); June Keller (husband, Joe, 11/11); Chip Buehler (brother, 11/7); Wendy Rogers (father, 11/5)

For Metro Richmond: We pray for the families of metropolitan Richmond: for peace, reconciliation, forgiveness and accord among family members, whatever the distance, and however old the hurt or grievance.

NEWS & EVENTS

Join us for fellowship this morning! 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Come to the Fellowship Hall to catch up with friends new and old this morning in between our services. Coffee and snacks will be available, and we invite you to linger as you get to know some new folks.

Guided Tour of the Bible kicks off again in January 2020

This 5-week study digs into one section of the Bible, looking at a different book each week, so we can better understand and be impacted by its message. Ed Satterfield authored the Tour and leads our time. Our next study will meet on Thursdays, January 9 – February 6, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Room 217 and will focus on the Letters of Paul. More info and to sign up: thirdrva.org/events.

Men's New Year's Dinner – Tuesday, January 14, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

We hope you will join in on a great evening to connect with other men, share a great meal, and be challenged to be all that God intends us to be. Our guest speaker will be Eddie Isler, sharing on the topic of "Am I Enough?" RSVP for this dinner (\$5): thirdrva.org/events.

2019 BUDGET UPDATE

2019 Total Annual Budget
\$4,003,155

November YTD Giving Budget
\$3,230,546

November YTD Giving Actual
\$3,114,209

(difference: \$116,337)



As we 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 November was \$3,114,209, which is approximately \$116,337, or 3.6%, short of budgeted expectations. It is worth noting that our annual giving budget remains heavily dependent on December giving as, historically, close to 30% of our annual giving occurs during the last months of the year. We faithfully rest in God's grace and provision, and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to stir our hearts with joyful and overflowing 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. LEARN ABOUT THIRD

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

2. JOIN US FOR COFFEE

Join us for our Welcome Coffee next week, January 5, 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.

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.