



# renewing our mission

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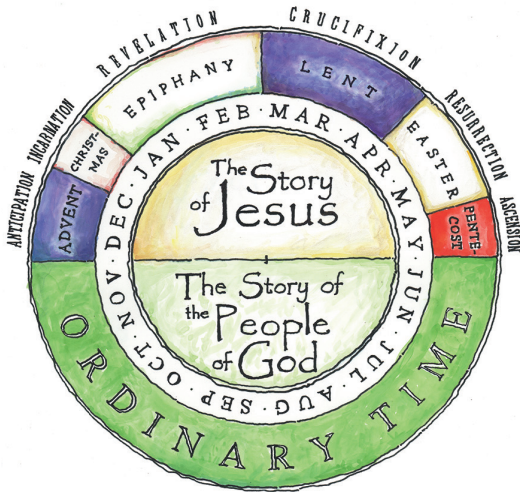
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020

"Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast;  
that we may nourish in your name the last, the lost, the least,  
until at length you call us all to your unending feast."

CARL P. DAW, JR.

# 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.

In the season of Epiphany, we are focused on Jesus’ earthly life and mission to bring God’s kingdom to the whole world, reclaiming and renewing all things. Jesus’ life among the people of Israel reveals the complicated, beautiful nature of God, and in each aspect of Christ’s identity and calling we see glimpses of new life in Jesus.

The many colors of Epiphany represent the whole, complex kingdom life that Christ brings into the world, and in this season we ask God to open our eyes to see him more and more in the multi-colored light of Jesus.



# WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

*Unison*



1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his  
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have  
3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -  
4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great



Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is  
known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how  
-bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a  
weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for



Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -  
to re - turn the gift of love once given: O let us share each  
fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our  
on its own each em - ber - los - es fire: yet joined in one the



-par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.  
joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es Heaven.  
gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.  
flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976; Music: Johannes Brahms, 1877

## CONFESSING

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*God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.*

### 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

#### Words of Comfort and Assurance

From Lamentations 3:22–24

Leader: But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

**People: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!**

Leader: Sisters and brothers, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### † 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 partner, the Richmond Center for Christian Study, as they connect with college students and others in the Richmond area to help them come to know Jesus Christ and grow in him.

## PROCLAIMING

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*God speaks to us through his word.*

### **Scripture Reading**

Hebrews 10:19–25

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**





## RESPONDING

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### Time of Response

Today we make our commitments to the Renew campaign, but we also want to remember that this campaign is not just about a building on Forest Avenue. The church empowers our commitment to our neighborhoods, city, and world. As you return to your seat, please take a piece of fabric to remember that you are woven into the tapestry of our community, commissioned to do the work of Jesus everywhere you go.

### Song of Response

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

*We will feast in the house of Zion, we will sing with our hearts restored.*

*“He has done great things,” we will say together. “We will feast and weep no more.”*

We will not be burned by the fire. He is the Lord our God.

We are not consumed by the flood—upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn: my soul, be not afraid.

For the promised morning, oh, how long? O God of Jacob, be my strength.

Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed. You are the faithful one.

And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.

### Song of Response

“Your Kingdom Knows No End”

Your kingdom, unshakable. Your power, unstoppable.

Your love is so beautiful. Your kingdom knows no end.

*Oh, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!*

*Oh, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!*

*Your kingdom knows no end, hallelujah!*

You’re righteous and gracious. Your peace overtakes us.

Your joy is contagious. Your kingdom knows no end.

*Yours is the kingdom, yours is the power,*

*Yours is the glory, forever and ever.*

## Prayer Needs

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**For health:** Erika Gouverneur, Francis Steadman, Gretchen Gravely, Bradley Crawford, Randy Raggio, Elaine Turner, Cheryl Fluckiger, Terry Jones, Brad Bishop, Noel and Stephanie Brooks, David Hacker, Julie Walden, Christie Geraty, Milton Jones

**For comfort for those who have lost loved ones:** Alex Goulart (father, 2/9); Eileen Raynor (2/5); Pam Smith (1/26); Holly Roper, Janet Dew (father, husband, Jay, 1/23); Janice Brockenbrough (father, 12/19); Phil Marriott (brother, 12/14)

**For Metro Richmond:** We pray for the coming of God's kingdom in metropolitan Richmond: for the enhancement of our common life through the Holy Spirit, and for the resurrection of metropolitan Richmond as a modern metropolitan city of hope for the world.

## SENDING

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† **Song of Commission** "Doxology" (Words below)

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.

Let earth and heavenly saints proclaim the power and might of his great Name.  
Let us exalt on bended knee: praise God, the Holy Trinity.

Praise to the King, his throne transcends; his crown and kingdom never end.  
Now and throughout eternity I'll praise the One who died for me.

† **Commission and Benediction** From Hebrews 13:20–21

Leader: Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant  
brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,  
equip you with everything good for doing his will.

**People: And may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ,  
to whom be glory for ever and ever! Amen.**

**Postlude** "Fanfare" Jeff Hummel  
**(11:15 service only)** (Jean-Joseph Mouret)

## SERVICE NOTES

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**Today's flowers** are given in loving memory of Adrian Dru Fitch from his family.

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Ash Wednesday Service – This Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary**

Join us for this special worship service as we mark the beginning of Lent, the six-week season of repentance and reflection leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Childcare available with reservation to [kathyw@thirdrva.org](mailto:kathyw@thirdrva.org) by February 23.

### **Last Day! Submit Officer Nominations by February 23 (Today)**

Each year, we ask our covenant partners to nominate individuals for the roles of Deacon, Elder, and Trustee. We look to our church family to identify and affirm the callings and giftings of our members. Join us by nominating individuals for these offices. More information can be found on our website ([thirdrva.org/nominate](http://thirdrva.org/nominate)) or in the handouts found around the church.

### **Celebration of Service for Kathy White and Beth Marriott Sunday, March 1, 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Two of our wonderful longtime staff members are retiring! Beth Marriott and Kathy White have served our church lovingly and faithfully, and we thank God for their work among us. The church plans to honor and thank both of them at a celebratory reception in their honor. Reception will include a stand-up buffet lunch. Children are welcome. Please plan to celebrate with us!

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Newcomers Class – Starts March 15**

Our Newcomers Class provides an opportunity to learn about Third's vision for worship, discipleship, community, serving and outreach, and for us to get to know you. At the end of the class, you can choose to become a covenant partner of our church family. Class begins on a Sunday morning (March 15) then will meet again the next weekend (Friday evening, March 20 and Saturday afternoon, March 21), and joining takes place on Sunday morning, March 29. Sign up: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).

### **New Sunday school classes starting Sunday, March 15**

Learn more and sign up: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events)

#### **Financial Peace University**

*Room 215*

We all need a plan for our money, and God wants us to have financial peace. This class will teach you to create a budget, pay off debt, spend and save wisely, and give generously—no matter where you are with your money.

#### **The Mission of God's People**

*Room 213*

This missions class will focus on studying Chris Wright's book, *The Mission of God's People*. We will discover God's big-picture plan to direct the purpose of God's people, the church, and explore questions such as: what does the Bible as a whole tell us about why the people of God exist, and what is it they are supposed to be and do in the world?

## ***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 in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Contact Rick ([rickh@thirdrva.org](mailto:rickh@thirdrva.org)) or Andrea ([andreaw@thirdrva.org](mailto:andreaw@thirdrva.org)) with any questions.

## SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

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Each Sunday, we offer a few different class opportunities for us to go deep on different topics, grow as disciples, and build community. All classes meet at 10:00 a.m.; locations listed below. For full class descriptions, visit: [thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship](http://thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship).

### **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.

### **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.

### **Metamorphosis Class**

*Vault Room, 500 Forest Ave.*

We are a diverse community seeking God's healing and wholeness for the brokenness in our lives and families through safe, authentic Christian relationships.

### **The Story of God. The Story of Us.**

*Fellowship Hall*

There are no perfect marriages. There are only imperfect marriages through which God pours his perfect love and grace. This highly interactive class will provide a gospel-centered framework to help us experience the transformative power of God's grace in our marriages, and build communities where our marriages can flourish.

### **Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age**

*Room 213*

Discover how spiritual conversations can be not something to dread, but a delight. This four-week class unpacks the three spiritual postures people tend to have toward the gospel and the six types of conversations that are most helpful for them based on their posture.

*Questions about our Sunday school classes? Contact Derek Mondeau at [derekm@thirdrva.org](mailto:derekm@thirdrva.org).*

# WELCOME!

¡Bienvenido! 欢迎! مرحباً Добро пожаловать!

We're so glad you're here.

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## 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.

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## 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](http://thirdrva.org).

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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).