



WE BELIEVE

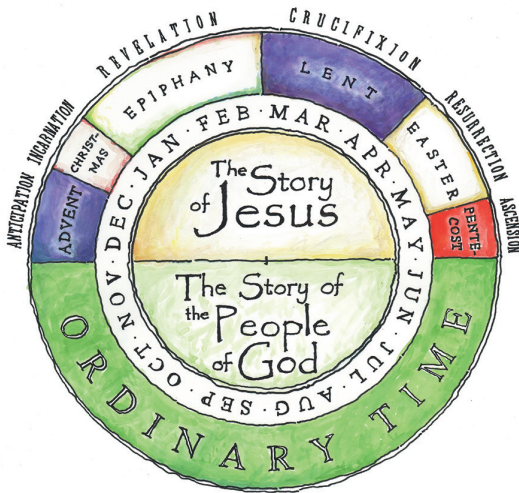
A SERIES ON THE APOSTLES' CREED

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 1, 2020

"I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe,
but rather, I believe in order that I may understand."

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

SANCTUARY DECORATIONS



During the season of Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday, we continue to remember that followers of Jesus “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.

Our banners of royal purple ribbons were introduced during Advent to reflect the way we can rejoice in the signs of new creation while acknowledging that many signs of hope still seem fractured, dim, and obscured by the

present world. Now, in a season focused on remembering Jesus’ suffering on our behalf—and for repentance and self-reflection of our own sins for which he died—we have added additional layers of gray and brown and gauze to represent Jesus’ rejection and submission to the pain of the world. Because we grieve together as one Body of Christ and not just as individuals, our banners also include strips of printed and painted cloth made together by men, women and children of our congregation (along with neighbors and visitors) as part of our Journey to the Cross meditation experience—a response with hands and hearts as well as minds to the sacrifice made by Jesus.

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

“Variations on ‘Cleansing Fountain’”
(Raymond Haan)

Jeff Hummel

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

From Psalm 62:5

Leader: For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait;

People: Truly our hope is in you.

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

† Song of Praise

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
“King of Kings”

#579 in the Hymnal
Music on page 4

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

KING OF KINGS



1. In the dark - ness we were wait - ing, with - out hope,
2. To re - veal the king - dom com - ing and to rec -
3. And the morn - ing that you rose, all of heav -
4. And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spir -



— with - out light, till from heav - en you came run - ning.
- on - cile the lost, to re - deem the whole cre - a - tion
- en held its breath till that stone was moved for good,
- it lit the flame. Now this gos - pel truth of old



There was merc - - cy in your eyes. To ful - fill
you did not de - spise the cross. For e -
for the Lamb had con - quered death. And the dead
shall not kneel, shall not faint. By his blood



— the law and proph - ets, to a Vir - - gin
- - ven in your suf - f'ring, you saw to the
— rose from their tombs, and the an - - gels
— and in his Name, in his free - - dom

came the Word, from a throne of end - less glo - ry
 oth - er side. Know - ing this was our sal - va - tion,
 stood in awe, for the souls of all who'd come
 I am free, for the love of Je - sus Christ,

to a cra - - dle in the dirt.
 Je - sus, for our sake you died.
 to the Fa - - ther are re - stored.
 who has res - - ur - rect - ed me.

Chorus

Praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, praise the Spir - it, Three in One.

God of glo - ry, maj - es - ty, praise for - ev - er to the King of Kings.

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Prayer of Confession

Everyone: Jesus Lord, in your mercy,
by your holy life that heals us,
by your holy death that saves us,
by your Holy Spirit with us,
come to cleanse these sinners that we are.
Set us free to obey you;
make us clear to stand before you;
then, for your mercy, we will praise you.
Amen.

Silent Confession

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!**

Commissioning Egypt Missions Team (11:15 service only)

LJ Jaworski, Fakhri Yacoub, Scott Armistead, Cheryl Pacious, Preston Claiborne, Peter Wahba, Hallel Paraluman Basco, Martin Wahba, Abigail Yacoub, and Victor Minh-Vu Nguyen.

† 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 the mission team leaving for Cairo, Egypt this week, for the medical clinic that they will be running, and for a deepening relationship with our sister church there, El Sharabia.

Offertory

"This I Believe"

Worship Team

Our Father everlasting, the all-creating one, God Almighty.
Through your Holy Spirit, conceiving Christ the Son, Jesus our Savior.

*I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son,
I believe in the Holy Spirit, our God is three in one.
I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again,
For I believe in the name of Jesus.*

Our Judge and our Defender, suffered and crucified. Forgiveness is in you.
Descended into darkness, you rose in glorious life, forever seated high.

*I believe in you. I believe you rose again.
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.*

I believe in life eternal, I believe in the virgin birth,
I believe in the saints' communion, and in your holy Church.
I believe in the resurrection when Jesus comes again.
For I believe in the name of Jesus.

† Glory Be to the Father

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

PROCLAIMING

God speaks to us through his word.

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

¹ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONDING

We respond to God's word.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Everyone: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy and merciful God, our Father, you have made us in your image
and for yourself. You have made this good world for us to tend and to enjoy.
God, our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Leader: You sought your ancient people when they strayed from you.
You freed them from the oppressor and brought them home.
God, our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

RESPONDING

Leader: You have sent your Son to bring us home to you.
By his Incarnation—

People: You have found us.

Leader: By his Death—

People: You have forgiven us.

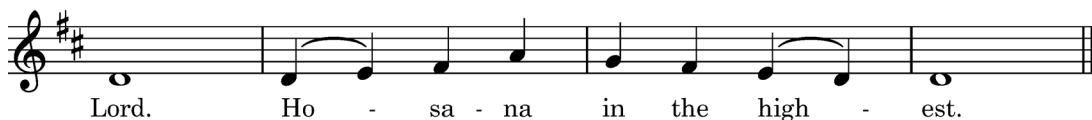
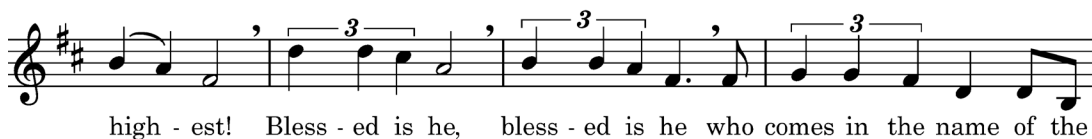
Leader: By his Resurrection—

People: You have freed us.

Leader: God, our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Leader: In union with Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Great High Priest, and with all who worship you, both in heaven and on earth, we offer you our praise, singing:



RESPONDING

Words of Institution

From 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

Leader: Holy and merciful God, our Father, send down your Holy Spirit on our bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and on your people, that we may be the body of Christ, reconciled to you and to each other by his blood. By your Holy Spirit make us—

**People: One with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in mission to all the world,**

Leader: Until Christ shall come in final victory
and we feast together at his heavenly banquet. We cry,

People: Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen!

RESPONDING

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is one of the two sacraments we celebrate (the other is baptism). It is one of the most important things we do when we gather together, because the bread and juice are concrete signs of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. When we come forward to receive them, we believe that Jesus is actually present through the Holy Spirit, extending his grace and forgiveness to us.

We welcome anyone to the table who is willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. If you are not able to receive Communion, we invite you to use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

Prayer of Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Lead me into the light and life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more blind and sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete acceptance. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

– Adapted from prayers written by Rev. Scot Sherman, Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

RESPONDING

Communion Song
(8:45 service only)

“God So Loved the World”
(Stainer)

Choir

God so loved the world, God so loved the world
That He gave His only begotten Son,
That whoso believeth, believeth in Him should not perish,
Should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world,
God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
But that the world through Him might be saved.

God so loved the world, God so loved the world
That He gave His only begotten Son,
That whoso believeth, believeth in Him should not perish,
Should not perish but have everlasting life.

God so loved the world.

Communion Song

“Bread of the World in Mercy Broken”

Worship Team

Bread of the world in mercy broken, wine of the soul in mercy shed,
By whom the words of life were spoken and in whose death our sins are dead:
Look on the heart by sorrow broken; look on the tears by sinners shed;
So may your feast become the token, that by your grace our souls be fed.

Communion Song

“Trinity Song”

Worship Team

Holy Father, Son and Spirit, holy communion, three-in-one.
Come with your peace, with your invitation; bind us together in holy love.

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People and 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

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: Bethany Clarke (father, 2/23); Lyric Hassler (father, 2/23); Bob and Donna Wells (brother-in-law, 2/21); Joan Moore (daughter, Suzanne, 2/20); 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 health care in metropolitan Richmond: for persons living with terminal illnesses and for their families, friends, and communities; for persons working to find cures for diseases.

SENDING

† **Song of Commission** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Words below

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee with thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

† **Commission and Benediction**

From Galatians 2:20

Leader: You have been crucified with Christ
and you no longer live, but Christ lives in you.

People: **The life I now live in the body,
I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me.**

Postlude
(11:15 service only)

"Trumpet Tune in C Major"
(David Johnson)

Jeff Hummel

NEWS & EVENTS

Today! Celebration of Service for Kathy White and Beth Marriott

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 this celebratory reception in their honor. Reception will include a stand-up buffet lunch. Children are welcome. Come celebrate with us!

Newcomers Class – Starts March 15

Our Newcomers Class provides an opportunity for you 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.

New Sunday school classes starting Sunday, March 15

Learn more and sign up: 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

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

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

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.

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.

This class is not meeting today.

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.

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.