

explore God™

Sunday | September 11, 2016

DOES LIFE HAVE A PURPOSE?

*"Life is just a dirty trick, a short journey from
nothingness to nothingness."*

Ernest Hemingway

*"I have seen all the things that are done under the sun;
all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind."*

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Welcome!
Bienvenido!
欢迎!
مرحباً

*We're glad you've chosen to worship at Third!
We look forward to meeting and getting to know you.*

*Third Church exists to spread the gospel and seek
the Shalom of metro Richmond and the world through
a movement of communities and congregations,
welcoming people of all cultures to the glory of Jesus Christ.*

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude "O God, Beyond All Praising" Jeff Hummel
(Gustav Holst, arr. Thiman)

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation

Leader: God of mercy,
grant that the word you speak today
may take root in our hearts,
and bear fruit to your honor and glory,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Everyone: Amen.

† *Let's quiet our hearts in silent preparation for worship.*

Call to Worship

From Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**People: For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great King over all the earth.**

Leader: God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**People: Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

† **Opening Prayer**

† **Songs of Praise** "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" (#2)
"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"
(See music on following pages)

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful flesh thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth, and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, wor-ship his ho - ly name.



— Sing like nev-er be-fore, O my soul, I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name.



—

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing,
2. You're rich in love and you're slow to an - ger,
3. And on that day when my strength is fail - ing,



it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may pass and what - your name is great and your heart is kind. For all your good-ness I will the end draws near and my time has come, still my soul will sing Your



ev-er lies be-fore me, let me be sing - ing when the eve-ning comes!
keep on sing-ing ten thou-sand rea-sons for my heart to find!
praise un - end - ing ten thou-sand years and then for - ev - er - more!

words and music by Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman
CCLI Song # 6016351; © 2011 Said And Done Music

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Prayer of Confession

**Everyone: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent;
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

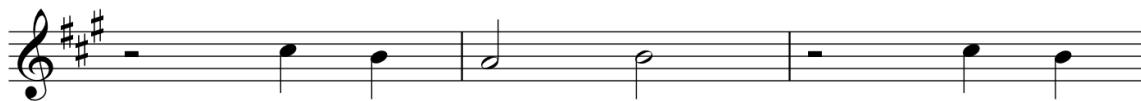
Words and Music by Alex Mejias



Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy,



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have



mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy.

Silent Confession

† Words of Comfort and Assurance

Leader: Brothers and sisters, what can wash away our sins?

People: Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Leader: We are brothers and sisters through his blood.

**People: We have died together, we will rise together,
we will live together.**

Leader: If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

People: Thanks be to God!

† Greeting of Peace

THANKSGIVING

We respond to God's word.

Our Offerings

Pray for Elijah House Academy, a local Christian school, for Head of School Jesse Kell and staff. The school draws from all the Richmond metro area, nurturing over 180 children with Christian principles, providing a safe place for them to learn and thrive.

Offertory
All Services

Arabic Student Homework Tutoring Panel

† Doxology

Please stand as we sing to the Lord.

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.

Prayer of Illumination **Scripture Reading**

Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

¹ The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

“Meaningless! Meaningless!”

says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless.”

³ What do people gain from all their labors

at which they toil under the sun?

⁴ Generations come and generations go,

but the earth remains forever.

⁵ The sun rises and the sun sets,

and hurries back to where it rises.

⁶ The wind blows to the south

and turns to the north;

round and round it goes,

ever returning on its course.

⁷ All streams flow into the sea,

yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from,

there they return again.

⁸ All things are wearisome,

more than one can say.

The eye never has enough of seeing,

nor the ear its fill of hearing.

⁹ What has been will be again,

what has been done will be done again;

there is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰ Is there anything of which one can say,

“Look! This is something new”?

It was here already, long ago;
it was here before our time.

¹¹ No one remembers the former generations,
and even those yet to come
will not be remembered
by those who follow them.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.

¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

John 10:10

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

RESPONDING

We respond to God's word.

† Song of Response "We Are Not Overcome"

Isaac Wardell and
Robert Heiskill 2011



Flesh will fail, and bones will break;
Put no trust in the earth,
Of - fer up your shoes and shirt;



thieves will steal, the earth will shake.
in the sod you stand up - on.
turn your cheek! Turn your cheek!



Night will fall, the light will fade;
Flow - ers fade in - to dust,
Bear the yoke of love and death;



the Lord will give and take a - way:
the Lord will make a place for us:
the Lord will give all life and breath:

Sing REFRAIN after verses 2 & 3



Be-cause of his great love, we are not o - ver - come!__



Be-cause of his great love, we are not o - ver - come!__

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, draw near to us as we sojourn in the midst of a broken world that often feels chaotic and meaningless. Keep us faithful and persevering in faith and hope, trusting in your great love for us and for the world. Let us taste the abundant life that you promise.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Heavenly Father, on this day of remembrance we pray for the many families in our country and around the world that suffer at the hands of those who perpetrate terrorism and violence. Bring comfort and consolation to those who have lost loved ones and who suffer from ongoing emotional and psychological stress and pain. We pray for our enemies, that you would break these cycles of violence and penetrate hearts that are in bondage to hatred. Bring your Kingdom peace to our world.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Holy Spirit of all compassion, we remember various needs before you: the poor and the afflicted, the sick and the dying; the enslaved, the imprisoned, and all who are alone; the victims of war, injustice, and inhumanity; and all who suffer in body, mind, or at the hands of others.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

10:00 a.m. service:

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly 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.

8:45 and 11:15 a.m. services: "The Lord's Prayer"

Sanctuary Choir
(Malotte)

Prayer Needs

For Health

Missy Deregibus, Jack Schilthuis, Katie Payne, Allen Lawrence, Marriott Jackson, Jerry Ramsey, Francis Steadman, Betty Cox, Charles Ellison, Christie Geraty, Dru Fitch, Mark Koontz, Margaret Leith, Dabney Harvey, Eileen Raynor, Lou Hanscom, Carol Holt, Celeste Reynolds, Pam Rambo

For Comfort

Deaths – Jeff Rebman (sister, 8/30), Lillian Hazelton (father, 7/21), Amy and Sarah Helweg (husband and father, 7/20), Paul White (mother, 6/20), Christina Brown (brother, 6/17), Pam Haney (mother, 6/9), Sunny Rosebro (mother, 6/6)

For Metro Richmond

We pray for schools and educational institutions of metropolitan Richmond: for all public schools; for students, teachers and support personnel, including cafeteria workers, building and grounds staff, and school bus drivers; for all private and religious schools, pre-schools and daycare centers and for children in home schools.

For Our Nation and the World – Laos

Located in SE Asia, Laos is governed by the communist party through military generals. One of the world's most corrupt countries, Laos ranks poorly in human rights issues and has one of the lowest annual incomes in the world. One-third of Laotians live below the international poverty line of less than \$1.25 per day.

- Although Buddhism is dominant, Christianity is the fastest growing religion. Thank God for the growth of the government-recognized Lao Evangelical Church as well as underground house churches. Pray for spiritual growth and maturity for the Laotian church.
- Offer undergirding prayer for our Laotian brothers and sisters, who suffer persecution. Pray they will depend fully upon the Lord and remain faithful.
- Most Laotians remain unevangelized, practicing Buddhism and tribal religions. Ask God to raise up indigenous Christians to spread the gospel to the Lao and Tai tribes, as well as northern and southern tribes.

Missionary Prayer and Care groups meet monthly to pray for our mission partners in Europe, Asia and the Muslim world. Contact Carolyn Oakley (cdoakley1@gmail.com/937-6564) to learn more. **NOTE:** Beginning in October, the Muslim World Prayer and Care group will meet on the first Tuesday night of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at the home of Laurie Chalifoux.

SENDING

God sends us into the world as his witnesses.

† **Song of Commission**

"Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

† **Commission**

From Colossians 3:15, 17

Leader: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body we are called to peace.

Everyone: And whatever we do, whether in word or deed, let us do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him!

† **Benediction**

Postlude

"Let All Together Praise our God"
(J.S. Bach)

Jeff Hummel

11:15 a.m. service

If you would like prayer for any reason, two elders are available at the front of the Sanctuary (by the lectern) after each service. We invite you to come forward for any prayer needs you may have.

SERVICE NOTES

This morning we celebrate the birth of Greyson Bender Tate to parents Sally and Nathan Tate on September 1, 2016.

Today's flowers are given in honor of our mission partner Elijah House Academy, a local Christian school, for Head of School Jesse Kell and staff. The school draws from all the Richmond metro area, nurturing over 180 children with Christian principles, providing a safe place for them to learn and thrive.

11:15 a.m. service in Room 101: Due to anticipated crowding in the 11:15 a.m. service, we have created an additional worship space in Room 101. Anyone is welcome to come to Room 101 for the last service if you need additional space, or you want to give up your space to make room for visitors and newcomers.

College Ministry: Dialogue with Corey Widmer – Thursday, September 15, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

The College Ministry of Third is kicking off its fall events. Join us for the first event: a dialogue with Corey Widmer. He will be sharing about how to discern God's will for your life. Questions? Contact Tim Latham (timl@thirdrva.org).

Welcome Coffee – Sunday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.

If you're new to Third, come to this monthly gathering to meet a few people, learn about Third's vision, what we believe and how to get involved. Questions? Contact Beth Nichols (bethn@thirdrva.org).

Arabic Student Homework Tutoring – Kicks Off September 21!

For this program, tutors are matched with a student. Each Wednesday evening, they meet together and tutors help their students with their homework. We continually find ourselves with more students than tutors, so your help is very much needed! Our tutoring season runs for 10 weeks in the Fall, September 21 through November 16. No experience needed. Ready to help? Contact Andi Redmond: andi.redmond6@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed for CARITAS: October 8-15

Join us to host families without a home during our CARITAS week. We'll serve them a meal where we can connect with them and share Christ's love. Volunteers needed to help prep and serve meals, do laundry, spend the night (and to serve a simple breakfast in the morning), and set up and break down. To sign up, contact Cecilia Elliott (dcnellott@gmail.com).

Jobs for Life Global Breakfast of Champions – Tuesday, September 13, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Interested in hearing more about Jobs for Life and how leaders from cities across the world (including Richmond) are coming together to address poverty through the dignity of work? Please join us on September 13 to meet and hear from groups partnering all over the city and world (through live streaming video) for Jobs for Life. Sign up: jobsforlife.org/global-breakfast-of-champions-2016.

Family Ministry Communication Change!

Starting this fall, all communication from Third's Family Ministry team will be generated from our church database. If you are **not** receiving the weekly parent page, or other communication from Kathy White or Tracie Meadows, please email Tracie (1st – 6th grade) at traciem@thirdrva.org or Kathy (babies – kindergarten) at kathyw@thirdrva.org.

Play Groups for Fall!

Come join other parents with children for our *Playgroup* and infant *Mommy & Me* gatherings on: September 9 and 23; October 14 and 28; November 4 and 18; December 2 and 16. Playgroup meets in Room 109; Mommy & Me in Room 102. Contact kathyw@thirdrva.org for more information.

Explore God Discussion Groups Meeting This Week!

Today, join us either at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, or 11:15 a.m. at Shoredog Cafe across the street for our first Explore God discussion groups.

This Wednesday evening, enjoy a free simple meal and group discussion with other men and women who are exploring recovery from an addiction, deep hurt, persistent habit or dependency as we delve deeper into an exploration of "higher power" through the Christian faith. We'll meet Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., at 500 Forest Avenue. Childcare is provided next door. For childcare or questions, please contact Mary Damon (389-1836) or Robin Lafon (839-0988).

This Friday morning, join other men in this Explore God discussion group at the Martin's at the Village Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m.

Relationships in Peace Ministry

If you are experiencing a relationship impasse or need someone to walk beside you through a difficult relational situation or conflict, please contact us. We're here to help. Visit www.thirdrva.org/partners/relationships-in-peace. For assistance: RelationshipsInPeace. thirdrva@gmail.com or call Margie Satterfield, (804) 819-0260.

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Join us for fellowship this morning! Weather permitting, we'll have Blanchard's coffee and snacks in the courtyard outside the Sanctuary between services, from 9:45 - 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Today! We're kicking off our adult Sunday morning discipleship classes **during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour.**

For more information on the classes below, visit: thirdrva.org/classes-and-fellowship, or pick up a copy of the **Fall 2016 Brochure for Community, Discipleship and Mission.** Questions? Contact Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org).

A Study of Hebrews

Room 101

Sermon Chat: Explore God

Fellowship Hall

Where is God in the Business and Busyness of Life?

Room 217

Forgiving and Reconciling: Bridges to Wholeness and Hope

500 Forest Avenue, Room 109

Marriage Fellowship

Room 215

Did Our Hearts Not Burn Within Us?

A Study of Luke

Room 213

Orphans and the Gospel

Room 207

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - SUNDAY MORNING

DURING THE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE:

We resume all of our children's Sunday morning discipleship classes during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour.

Visit thirdrva.org/family-ministry-sunday-morning or pick up a copy of the **Fall 2016 Brochure for Community, Discipleship and Mission** for information on where the classes will be.

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.

A Wiggle Room is available if you prefer to have your child with you but he or she is a little too active or noisy to be in the service. You'll be able to watch the service via streaming. The room is located near the Student Ministry area in Room 132.

Please let us know if we can help familiarize you with all that is available at Third for your children. Contact Kathy White (kathyw@thirdrva.org) or Tracie Meadows (traciem@thirdrva.org).

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT THIRD

Starting Wednesday, September 21, we'll kick off our Wednesday evening programs. We host many different opportunities on Wednesday nights that include children's choir, worship practices, homework and ESL tutoring, group studies and much more!

For the full list of offerings, visit thirdrva.org/wednesdays-at-third for more information, or pick up a copy of the **Fall 2016 Brochure for Community, Discipleship and Mission**. Questions? Contact Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org).

STUDENT MINISTRY

Today we will begin our Sunday morning student ministry meet-ups during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour. Join us for food, solid teaching, and great people as we grow together in God's word.

600 Forest Avenue, Student Ministry Area

10:00-11:00 a.m. for all students in 7th-12th grade.

Today we will also be starting our Sunday evening student ministry.

Join us from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. We'll kick things off in the Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Contact Rick (rickh@thirdrva.org) or Andrea (andreaw@thirdrva.org).

THIS WEEK AT THIRD

Sunday, September 11

8:00 a.m. Communion and Prayer – Room 101

8:45, 10:00, 11:15 a.m. Worship services – Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Job for Life champion training – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Ave.

12:30 p.m. Care and Cards meeting – Room 209

Monday, September 12

10:00 a.m. Sue Hendrickson's Circle meeting – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

5:45 p.m. Jobs for Life – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Missions Committee meeting – Upstairs Conference Room, 500 Forest Avenue

7:00 p.m. Trustees meeting – Room 101

Tuesday, September 13

9:30 a.m. Women of Third - Priscilla Shirer's "Breathe" – Room 213

10:00 a.m. Jobs for Life Breakfast of Champions – Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Meet Third's Mission Partners – Parlor

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee meeting – Parlor

Wednesday, September 14

6:30 p.m. Alleluia choir rehearsal – Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. Refresh group meeting – Parlor

Thursday, September 15

7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal – Choir Room

7:00 p.m. Worship team rehearsal – Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. College Outreach – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Needle's Eye Young Professionals Grp. – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

Friday, September 16

8:30 a.m. Europe Prayer and Care meeting at Carolyn Oakley's home, 2710 Old Point Drive, 23233, 937-6564

12:00 p.m. Day by Dayers meeting – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

6:00 p.m. Healing prayer rooms – Student ministry area

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Newcomers Class – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 17

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Newcomers Class – Fellowship Hall

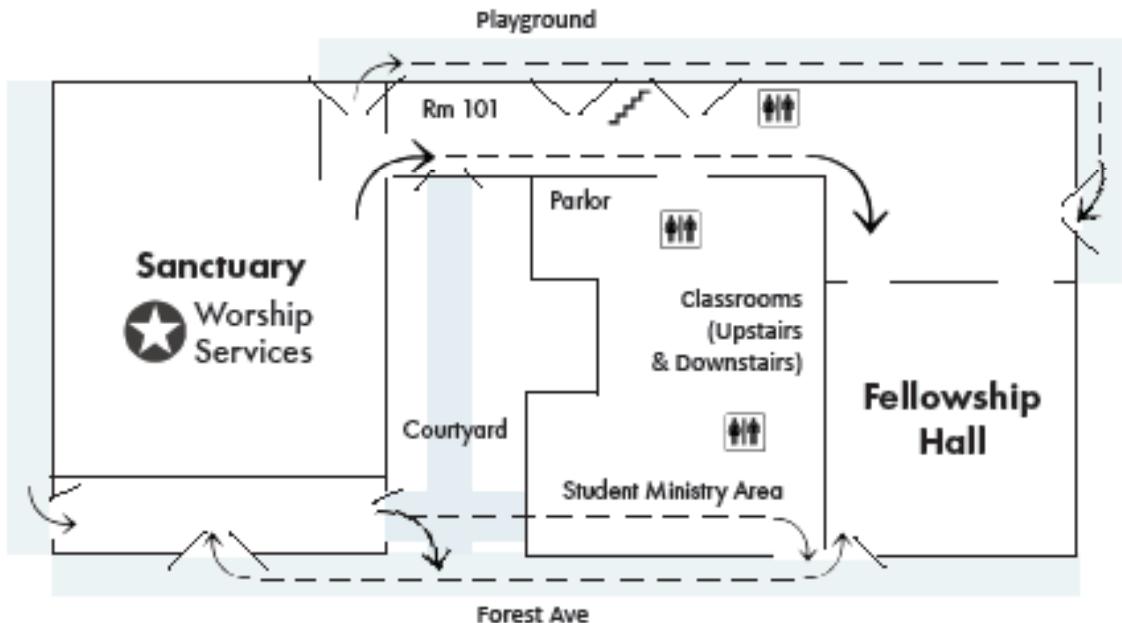
LEARN MORE ABOUT THIRD

Welcome to Third! We're so glad you're here. We'd love to get to know you and for you to learn more about our community. We have a couple opportunities for you to connect with us and help you find out more about Third.

- **Sign up for emails:** thirdrva.org/signup
- **Pick up Third Press:** our monthly newsletter can be found around the church.
- **Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram:** @thirdrva
- **Join us for a Welcome Coffee:** Start here to learn more about Third. The next Welcome Coffee is Sunday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT THIRD

If you need help or have any questions at any point on a Sunday morning, look for individuals wearing carnations or yellow name badges. They're here to help answer questions, find you seats, and guide you around our building.



Third Church
804-282-4645
500 Forest Ave.
Richmond, VA 23229
www.thirdrva.org



A Covenant Order
of Evangelical Presbyterians