

WELCOME!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

New here? Learn about Third on our website at thirdrva.org and sign up for our ministry emails at thirdrva.org/signup. Looking to get plugged in and find community? Find a parish group meeting near you at thirdrva.org/parish-life.

PRELUDE | "NOEL X" (LOUIS DAQUIN)

CHORAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP | "WE'LL WELCOME HIM" (SCHRAM)

In the silence and the darkness we have wandered, wandered,
Waiting for our Savior's birth;
And our minds and hearts are longing for the Savior, Savior,
Waiting, waiting.
When our Lord descends to earth, we'll welcome him.
We'll welcome him. We'll welcome him.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
Christ our God to earth descendeth.
We'll welcome him. We'll welcome him. We'll welcome him.

CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM PSALM 24:7-10

- › Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up,
you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- » **Who is this King of glory?**
- › The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
- » **Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up,
you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**
- › Who is he, this King of glory?
- » **The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

"LO! HE COMES, WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING"

“O COME, ALL YOU UNFAITHFUL”

O come, all you unfaithful; come, weak and unstable.
Come, know you are not alone.

O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying;
Come, see what your God has done.

Christ is born, Christ is born; Christ is born for you.

O come, bitter and broken; come with fears unspoken.
Come, taste of his perfect love.

O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run.
See what your God has done.

Christ is born, Christ is born; Christ is born for you.

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon.
His promise is peace for those who believe.

So come, though you have nothing.
Come, he is the offering.

Come, see what your God has done.

Christ is born, Christ is born; Christ is born for you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

» **Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor's needs and do not love you above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

- › The Lord, the Light of light, descended and vanquished the powers of hell on the cross. He will come again to clear the gloom of hell away.
- » **Thanks be to God!**

GREETING OF PEACE

OUR OFFERINGS | FROM 1 CHRONICLES 29:14

- › Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?
- » **For all things come from you and what we now offer is already yours.**

"GABRIEL'S MESSAGE (THE ANGEL GABRIEL)" (TRADITIONAL/ARR. ALONSO)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"How blest among all women you shall be,
Whom every age will praise continually.
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, gloria!

Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING | MATTHEW 1:1-6; 2 SAMUEL 11:1-16, 26

SERMON | "MOTHERS OF JESUS: BATHSHEBA" (NAN CLARKE)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

» **Sing together after each prayer:**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

» **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.**

“JOY TO THE WORLD!” (ARR. HAYES)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

And the government shall be upon his shoulder,
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
The mighty God, the everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

For unto us a Child is born; joy to the world!

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | FROM ISAIAH 40:10–11; JOHN 10:14–15

- › See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
he tends his flock like a shepherd.
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

» **“I am the good shepherd.
I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—
and I lay down my life for the sheep.”**

“FESTIVE GLORIA” (AARON DAVID MILLER)

A SPECIAL CLASS OPPORTUNITY: “MILLENNIA OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC”

While our regular term classes have ended for the year, we’re offering a special class opportunity today at 10:00 a.m. in Room 213. Explore over 1,000 years of Christmas music written by such composers as Michael Praetorius, J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Ralph Vaughn Williams, Benjamin Britten, John Rutter, and more. Included in the compositions are a few very old carols from Spain and the Basque country.

PRAYER NEEDS

FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Please be praying for our mission partner Joseph Kishore with World Horizons, who serves seven different areas of Burkina Faso to plant churches, minister through a mission hospital, and proclaim the gospel at the risk of violent opposition.

FOR OUR CITY

Please be praying for persons in financial need in metropolitan Richmond: for healthy relationships; for constructive, safe, and caring households for the bringing up and nurturing of children and caring for the elderly.

FOR HEALTH

Evi Burgin, Don Floyd, Dabney Harvey, Linda Ludlow, Evelyn Jennings, Susan Higgins, Bette Phillips, Elaine Turner, Stephanie Brooks, Beatrice White, Jinny Bartlett, Heather Moret, Liz Slate, Tom Morgan, Carolyn Oakley, Christie Geraty

FOR THOSE GRIEVING LOSS

Karen Perry (father, 11/23); Barbara Romanello (brother, 11/6); Melissa Lincoln (husband, Abe 11/12); Mary Cox (husband, Gene 11/9); Rene Shouse (brother, 11/7); Agnes Smith (sister, 10/1); Jeff Price (wife, Gloria 9/24); Christi Hancock (mother, Jackie Cozens 9/21); Roseanne Adams and Melissa Yacher (mother and grandmother, Ruth Anne Blakely 9/18); Betty Wingo (9/17); Carl Cunningham (father, 9/16); Fitch and Rivers families (son, brother, and grandson, John 9/14)

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

McKenna Ballard 12/7
Elliot Pendleton "Penn" Cave, Jr 10/27
Holland Joy Henry. 10/10
Levi Elliot Sawyer. 8/24
Samuel Sainz Bond 8/15
Clara Garland Patrick 7/23
Emery Ann Anthony 7/8
Sophie Moon Babcock 7/8

DEATHS

Abe Lincoln. 11/12
Gene Cox. 11/9
Gloria Price 9/24
Jackie Cozens 9/21
Ruth Anne Blakely 9/18
Betty Wingo. 9/17
John Fitch 9/14

We rejoice in the birth of **McKenna Ballard** on December 7, 2021. She is the daughter of Mallory and Brent Ballard in the Grove parish area. Please join us in praying for this family!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Over the past few weeks we've been sharing about our current financial outlook as we close out 2021. In November, we shared that we were anticipating a \$310,000 shortfall for our year-end budget. At that time, we also asked our community to help us try to meet this shortfall and many of you have responded.

We're grateful to share that November givings were 7.5% over budget! Our ministry expenses were down again, this time by 50%, but our operating expenses were over budget due to facility expenses including HVAC repair and building maintenance. In total, we are glad to report that we had a net income of \$79k in November! While we are still projecting a deficit for 2021, it has narrowed from \$310k to \$280k.

Thank you to all who have and will continue to give faithfully to our church. We will continue to keep you updated on our financial situation and any responses and impact to our ministries.

	NOVEMBER YTD \$2,947,560	BUDGET \$3,779,103
2021 TOTAL GIVING REVENUE		
2021 NET INCOME		
YTD LOSS \$416,992	PROJECTED LOSS \$280,339	BUDGET \$0

WHAT ARE WE ASKING OF YOU?

Pray for God's provision for our church, and that the work of ministry and mission that he desires for us would be accomplished.

If you are currently giving to our church, thank you and please continue to do so!

If God has especially prospered you over the past 18 months, would you consider giving generously toward making up this end-of-year shortfall?

NEWS & EVENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THIRD

Friday, December 24, 3:30, 5:00, 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.

Join us on Christmas Eve to celebrate the newborn King! Services will be in the Sanctuary, with a masked option in the Fellowship Hall, as well as livestreamed. Nursery care is available for ages 2 and younger during the first two services.



ADVENT PRAYER GATHERINGS & GUIDES

During the season of Advent, we are praying together at noon three days a week—Mondays and Fridays on Zoom, and Wednesdays in person in the Sanctuary. Get Zoom links and prayer prompts in advance by scanning the QR code or visiting thirdrva.org.



BARNABAS TRAINING BASIC

February 12, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Better encourage friends facing difficult times in life and faith through this interactive and informative workshop from the Barnabas Center. Early pricing (\$95 including lunch) ends December 20.



NEWCOMERS CLASS: NEXT CLASS BEGINS SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

Interested in learning more about Third, or considering joining as a Covenant Partner? Come to our Newcomers Class and learn more about being a part of our community and what we believe!



IMPORTANT WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Please be aware that we will not have in-person worship services on Sunday, December 26. After another challenging year, we are giving our staff and Sunday volunteers time to rest and be with their families and loved ones. We will provide an at-home worship guide with pre-recorded message for all who would like to gather in homes, either with your household or with other friends and family, to worship.

For more information and to register for these events, scan the QR codes above or visit thirdrva.org/events to see all upcoming events.

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