

“Why are you weeping?”

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THE  
QUESTIONS  
OF JESUS

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EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019 | SANCTUARY

“Now is the shining fabric of our day torn open, flung apart, rent wide by love.

Never again the tight, enclosing sky, the blue bowl or the star-illuminated tent.

We are laid open to infinity, for Easter love has burst His tomb and ours.

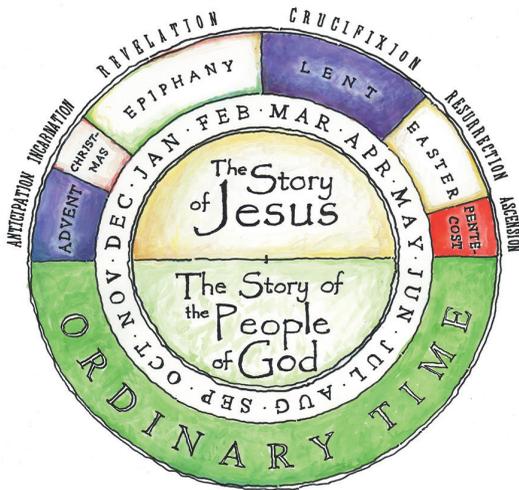
Now nothing shelters us from God’s desire — not flesh, not sky, nor stars, not even sin.

Now glory waits so he can enter in. Now does the dance begin.”

ELIZABETH ROONEY

## 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.

After six weeks of somber purple to mark the Lenten season of repentance and remembrance of Jesus’ suffering, on Easter morning the Sanctuary is transformed into a place of celebration and joy. The colors of white and gold remind us that Jesus is King, and that his resurrection has overcome death and washed us clean of our sins. Even the lilies of the field join us as we lift up our hands and voices in praise of the One who is renewing all things by his power and love.

## GATHERING

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*God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.*

**Prelude**

“Resurrection Overture”  
(Jeff Cranfill)

Churchestra

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **† Call to Worship**

Leader: Hear the good news: the grave is empty!

**Everyone: Hallelujah!**

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ is risen!

**Everyone: Hallelujah! He is risen indeed!**

Leader: Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?

**Everyone: Death has been swallowed up in victory!**

Leader: Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life.

The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.

**Everyone: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

Leader: Christ is risen!

**Everyone: He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

### **Prayer of Adoration**

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

## GATHERING

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† **Song of Praise** "Open Up the Heavens"

We've waited for this day; we're gathered in your name, calling out to you.  
Your glory like a fire, awakening desire, will burn our hearts with truth.  
You're the reason we're here. You're the reason we're singing!

*Open up the heavens, we want to see you.  
Open up the floodgates, a mighty river  
Flowing from your heart, filling every part of our praise.*

Your presence in this place, your glory on our face, we're looking to the sky.  
Descending like a cloud, you're standing with us now. Lord, unveil our eyes!

*Show us, show us your glory,  
Show us, show us your power.  
Show us, show us your glory, Lord!*

† **Song of Praise** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #182 in the Hymnal

## CONFESSING

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

### **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: We praise you, Holy God, for your steadfast love given to us in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hold us by your grace, even as we have sinned against it and marred our relationship with you and our neighbor. We repent of our sins and long for you to restore us.

**People: In your great love come, cleanse, heal and help us, that we may live out our days to the praise of your grace and to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

### **Silent Confession**

#### **Words of Comfort**

From Ephesians 2:4–7

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**Everyone: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!**

### **† 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.”

## PROCLAIMING

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*God speaks to us through his word.*

### Scripture Reading

John 20:1–3, 11–18 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup> So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**



## RESPONDING

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*God sends us into the world as his witnesses.*

### † **Song of Response**

“Psalm 126 (Although We Are Weeping)”

Our mouths, they were filled, filled with laughter;  
Our tongues, they were loosed, loosed with joy.  
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing  
The seeds of your kingdom for the day you will reap them.  
Your sheaves we will carry; Lord, please do not tarry.  
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy.*

The nations will say, “He has done great things!”  
The nations will sing songs of joy.  
Restore us, O Lord! Restore us, O Lord!

## RESPONDING

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### **Our Offerings**

Pray for Bob and Elaine as they build close relationships with Chinese living in Richmond and share the good news of Jesus.

### **Offertory**

“The Bells of Easter”  
(Martin/Nix)

Choir

Bells of bronze, release your music, chime with joy this sacred hour.  
Boldly share your alleluias, ring with resurrection power.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!  
Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Praise the Lord!

Bells of worship, share your story. Sound the news that life has won.  
Death surrenders to God’s glory at the rising of the Son, at the rising of the Son.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!  
Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Praise the Lord!

Bells of Easter, play with spirit, fill the world with joyful praise.  
So that all the earth will hear it: “Christ is risen from the grave!”  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!  
Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Praise the Lord!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

### **† 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.*

## RESPONDING

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### Video

#### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Leader: Father, we cry out to you on behalf of a world that weeps:  
for the oppressed, the persecuted and the forgotten,  
have mercy and bring your resurrection life.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, we cry out to you on behalf of our city that weeps:  
for the poor, the lonely and the suffering,  
have mercy and bring your resurrection life.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, we cry out to you on behalf of those among us that weep:  
for the fearful, the sad, the hurting and those in pain,  
have mercy and bring your resurrection life.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Who else needs our prayers for comfort and hope?

*Speak the names of those who need comfort and hope, either out loud or in your own heart.*

Leader: Thank you, Father, Son and Spirit,  
that Jesus has risen from the dead,  
and that death and tears and sorrow never have the final word.

**People: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**

*Now 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

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### For Health

Livie Gaertner (daughter of mission partners Chris and Leah), Mary Ann Hancock, Frances Eichost, Jean Johnson, Peggy Harvey, Evi Burgin, Christie Geraty, Elva White, Milton Jones, Strick Smith, Nancy Bonsack, Betty Cox, Brad Bishop, Julie Walden, Charles Ellison, Lou Hanscom

### For comfort for those who have lost loved ones

Bonnie Smith (husband Marc, 4/8); Tom Barila (mother, 3/28); Linda Newsome (mother, 3/29); Rich Ruch (brother); Donna Davis (brother, 3/24); Libby Cornett (father, 3/23); Hal Tyler (wife Ann, 3/19); Scott Frayser (sister-in-law, 3/18); Holly Smith (mother, 3/9); Gretchen Gravely (brother, 3/3)

### For Metro Richmond

We pray for the power of the resurrection to transform metropolitan Richmond: for the redeeming power of God to give us hearts of love, cooperation, peace, community, and commitment to all people in God's name.

## Easter Lily Donations

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*The following members and friends of Third have provided the lilies for today's services.*

- Faye and Cullen Rivers and family, in loving memory of Dru Fitch.
- Sarah Winfield, in loving memory of her parents, Jean and Bob Winfield.
- Rick and Sue Hendrickson, in memory of Bill and Becky Sloomweg, Bill and Francis Hendrickson, and Sam Bonsack.
- Virginia and Cameron Koontz, in memory of Virginia's aunt, Nancy Eileen Essex.
- John, Jenny and Elizabeth Daniel, in loving memory of Marian Leigh Carter.
- Marlene and Gary Short, in memory of Steve Keister, Marlene's brother; Alpha Fess, Marlene's mother; Martha Short, Gary's mother; and Dottie Greene, Gary's sister.
- Christi and David Hancock, in memory of Ella Hancock and Bill Cozens.
- Jim and Liz Slate in memory of loved ones and in celebration for our families.
- Agnes Smith, in memory of loved ones.



### **Student Ministry Dessert Auction – Sunday morning, May 5, Fellowship Hall**

Bid on delectable treats and raise money for our students' relief mission trip to Wilmington, NC! Treats will be set up for bidding in the Fellowship Hall the morning of May 5. Stop by in between services, place a bid, and take home a delicious baked good for a great cause. Want to contribute a dessert for auction? Sign up: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).

### **Called as Witnesses: Third's Annual Missions Conference May 3–5, Third Church**

Over the past few years, several ECO churches have begun sister church partnerships in Egypt. Why Egypt? How is the church growing? And how can we be a part of it? Join us for this special weekend to learn more about Egypt, what it means for our church family, and how we can engage more fully with our call to be witnesses. Our weekend is full of dynamic activities for all ages. Check out the full schedule at: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).

### **Quarterly Men's Dinner – Tuesday, April 30, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Enjoy the start of spring with a grilled dinner— burgers and dogs off the grill— and good connections with other men. Kenney Grigg will share some "Lessons for a Lifetime" from his experiences of finding community in Christ alongside other men. Sign up online (\$5) at [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).

### **Meet Our Mission Partners: Bob and Elaine Sunday, April 28, 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Come to this (free!) lunch to catch up with Bob and Elaine, Third covenant partners and mission partners. After years in the international neighborhood befriending students with the love of God, they have now moved into a pastoral role, encouraging and visiting alumni across the U.S. and discipling several who follow Jesus Christ. No RSVP necessary.

## SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

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*All of our Sunday school classes are taking a break today due to our altered schedule, but please come back next week and explore one! Our classes meet at 10:00 a.m. and are open to all. For class descriptions about each class, visit: [thirdrva.org/Sunday-discipleship](http://thirdrva.org/Sunday-discipleship).*

### **Rest for Your Souls**

*Room 217 | Led by Erin Rose*

Jesus is inviting every weary soul to rest in him. Together, we'll take a close look at several of Jesus' encounters with men and women in the gospels where we see his invitation to rest, inviting us away from carrying burdens and toward a life patterned after him.

### **Book of Acts Study**

*Room 213 | Led by Andrew Fuller and Jennifer Parham*

Study Acts and explore what it has to say about our theology, our community, and our outreach.

### **Metamorphosis Class**

*Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue  
Led by Mary Damon*

Delve into scripture and brain research to address questions like "Why can't I control my anger, my eating, my wasting time online, my \_\_\_\_\_?"

### **Good News Class:**

#### **Study of the Gospel of Mark**

*Room 101 | Led by Dave Carroll, David Skove, and Dave Beckmann*

Join us for expository Bible teaching of the Gospel of Mark, centered on understanding and applying God's word for his glory and our growth as his people.

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

## THIS WEEK AT THIRD

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### **Sunday, April 21**

9:00, 11:00 a.m. Worship services – Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

### **Monday, April 22**

All day Church offices closed  
6:00 p.m. Jobs for Life – Fellowship Hall

### **Tuesday, April 23**

9:00 a.m. Kingdom Knitters – Parlor  
6:00 p.m. Session dinner and meeting – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Ave.

### **Wednesday, April 24**

6:30 p.m. Freedom Road – Conference Room, 500 Forest Ave.  
6:45 p.m. Club 56 – Basement

### **Thursday, April 25**

7:00 p.m. Guided Tour of the Bible – Room 217  
7:00 p.m. Worship Team rehearsal – Sanctuary

# WELCOME!

¡Bienvenido! 欢迎! مرحباً Добро пожаловать!

## We're so glad you're here.

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, drop it in the offering, and we'll be in touch. Our regular Sunday services are at 8:45, 10:00, and 11:15 a.m.

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### 1. LEARN ABOUT THIRD

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

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### 2. JOIN US FOR COFFEE

Come to our next Welcome Coffee on May 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. You'll meet a few people and learn about Third's vision, what we believe, and how you can get involved.

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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).