

“Why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

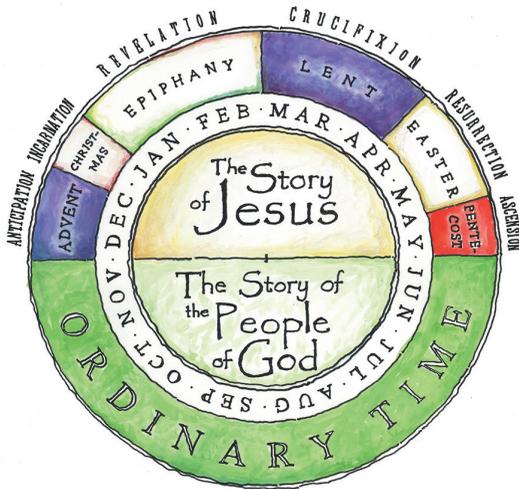
THE QUESTIONS OF JESUS

EASTERTIDE | SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019

“The minute we begin to think we know all the answers, we forget the questions, and we become smug like the Pharisee who listed all his considerable virtues, and thanked God that he was not like other men... Those who believe they believe in God, but without passion in the heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God, and not in God himself.”

MADELEINE L'ENGLE

SANCTUARY DECORATIONS



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, during Eastertide 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

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

"Prelude & Fugue in C Major"
(J. S. Bach)

Jeff Hummel

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

From Psalm 46:10

Leader: Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.

People: Amen.

Silent Preparation for Worship

Let's quiet our hearts in preparation for worship.

† Call to Worship

From Psalm 146:1–5

Leader: Praise the Lord.

**People: Praise the Lord, O my soul.
I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Leader: Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.
When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

**People: Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

Prayer of Adoration

† Songs of Praise

"Lion and the Lamb"
"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Words on page 4
#223 in the Hymnal

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

THE LION AND THE LAMB

He's coming on the clouds. Kings and kingdoms will bow down,
And every chain will break as broken hearts declare his praise.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

*Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah.
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before him.
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world. His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.
Every knee will bow before him.*

So open up the gates; make way before the King of kings.
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

*Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?*

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Call to Confession (8:45, 11:15 services)

“O Lord, Hear Us”
(Parks)

Choir

Merciful God, forgive us when we’ve failed to pray,
Forgive when we do not obey, forgive the foolish words we say.
Merciful God, forgive our heart’s idolatry,
Forgive our worship’s poverty, forgive our eyes that will not see.
O Lord, hear us, hear us, hear us as we pray.

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie. Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.

O Lord, hear us, hear us, hear us as we pray.
Merciful God, Kyrie, Kyrie.
Merciful God, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

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

THANKSGIVING

Words of Comfort and Assurance

From Lamentations 3:22–23

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!

Sacrament of Baptism

11:15 a.m. Kenley Grey Dieringer (City North Parish)

*The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you.
And give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace forever.*

† 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.”

Our Offerings

Pray for Beth Baleke with Scripture Union (Uganda), which is a Christian organization that nurtures children and youth holistically, helping people engage with God through the Bible so that they may follow Jesus and be instrumental in transforming Africa.

Foster Care and Adoption Panel

† 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.*

PROCLAIMING

God speaks to us through his word.

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36–53 (ESV)

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.

³⁸ And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: Lord Jesus, thank you that you come alongside us in our doubts and troubles to comfort and restore. Keep us on the journey as we seek to follow you, and empower us to be your witnesses in the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Father God, on this Mother's Day we thank you for our mothers and the way we have experienced your love through them. We pray for all mothers, that you would empower them in their callings in the home and in the world. We pray for those who have lost their mothers, that you would bring comfort in their grief. We pray for those who have lost children, that you would bind up wounds. We pray for those who have longed to be mothers, that you would satisfy the deep yearnings of their souls. We pray for those estranged from their mothers, that you would heal relationships. For all the complex emotions of this day, we ask for the consolation of your love.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Holy Spirit, draw near to all children in the Virginia foster system that need a forever home, and raise up new families, even among us, that can offer the gift of a home. Sustain and empower all those who are serving as foster parents, social workers, respite providers, and friends.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

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

For health: Julie Walden, Stephanie Brooks, Livie Gaertner (daughter of mission partners Chris and Leah), Mary Ann Hancock, Frances Eichost, Christie Geraty, Elva White, Milton Jones, Strick Smith, Betty Cox, Brad Bishop, Charles Ellison, Lou Hanscom

For comfort for those who have lost loved ones: Marjorie Parker (4/16); Pam Douglas (father, 4/22); Ken Newsome (father, 4/16); 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 churches and religious institutions of metropolitan Richmond: for all religious communities, abbeys, orders, brotherhoods, sisterhoods, religious societies, and para-church organizations.

SENDING

God sends us into the world as his witnesses.

† **Song of Commission**

“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.

† **Commission and Benediction**

From Matthew 28:18–20

Leader: Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Everyone: Surely Jesus is with us always, to the very end of the age.

† **Postlude** **(11:15 service only)**

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”
(Jason Payne)

Jeff Hummel

SERVICE NOTES

Today’s flowers are given by Ron and Ann Klipp in memory of Ann’s mother, Mabel West, whose birthday was on May 15.

Today we celebrate the birth of Isabella Rossi Hunter, born on May 3 to Margaret and Colin Hunter.

Today at the 11:15 a.m. service we celebrate the baptism of Kenley Grey Dieringer, daughter of Kurt and Alex Dieringer. Relatives present today are Julie George Goss, Nancy George, Brian and Karen Dieringer, and Marilyn and Dale Ruesch. Elder representing the Session by holding the font is Kathy White. Prayer sponsors are Jon and Danielle Avula.

NEWS & EVENTS

Parish Worship Initiative: A Summer Experiment Starting Next Week

This will be an experimental worship service in which one or two parish areas will be encouraged to attend and worship with those in their parish area communities. We're exploring new ways to open up more space in our Sanctuary so that our church can continue to grow, and we're also seeking fresh ways to deepen the culture of parish life in our church by gathering together in a dynamic way. If you live in the City North or City South parish areas, join us next Sunday, May 19, at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Mission Scholarship and Training Fund – Support Our Short-Term Missions!

Our church is taking two short-term trips this year: one group (of over 40 people) will serve in Haiti, and our students will be serving through relief work in Wilmington, NC. To support these efforts, we are raising \$25,000 and need your help. Give to this special offering by using the envelopes in the pews in front of you, or by giving online at: thirdva.org/generosity.

Muslim World Prayer Month

We are participating in the largest ongoing international call to Christians to pray for the Muslim world during the observance of Ramadan, which began May 6. Ramadan is Islam's annual period of fasting and religious observation. Pick up a Muslim Prayer Guide in the Narthex, Steeple Corridor or the Commons Area. One or two per family, please.

Meet our Mission Partner: Beth Baleke – Next Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Room 101

Come to this (free!) lunch on Sunday, May 19 to catch up with Beth Baleke, a new mission partner with Scripture Union. Scripture Union Uganda has been a leader of the spiritual nurture of Uganda's children, youth and families for over 50 years. Beth is a dynamic leader who engages children and youth holistically so that they may follow Jesus Christ and be instrumental in transforming Africa. No RSVP necessary!

Annual Sam Jackson Charity Golf Outing – Monday, June 17

Third Golfers in Fellowship hosts this annual golf outing at Richmond Country Club to bring together golfers and raise money for a mission partner. This Captain's Choice is suited for all levels of golfers, and is open to all: men, women, and teens. Sign up as individuals or pairs, and you'll be placed on teams. Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Lunch to follow. Sign up (\$85; covers greens fees, golf cart, range balls, lunch, and donation to Urban Hope): thirdva.org/events.

Community Strategic Visioning Sessions

Monday, May 20 and Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Our community has been discerning for several years what to do about our church building facility constraints. On May 20 and 21 we'll be holding some strategic visioning conversations with our leaders and Covenant Partners. These meetings will be facilitated by Doug Turner of the Culture of Ready, and will be aimed at understanding our community's readiness to grow and take on our plans for facility improvements. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please reach out to Andi Redmond: andir@thirdrva.org.

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Join us this week for one of our adult Sunday school class opportunities. Our classes meet at 10:00 a.m. and are open to all. Class locations are listed below. For full descriptions about each class, visit 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.

Questions about our Sunday school classes? Contact Derek Mondeau: derekm@thirdrva.org.

Metamorphosis Class

Vault 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.

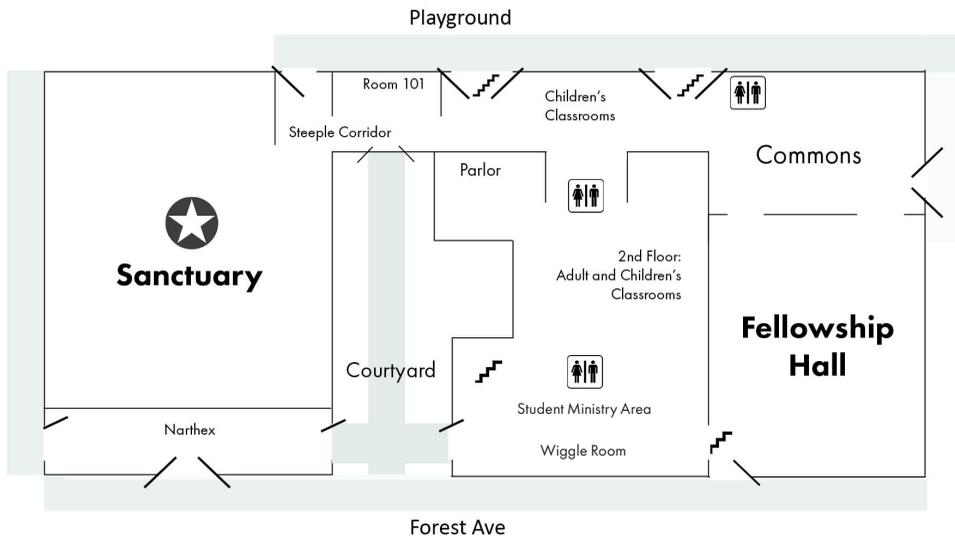
FAMILY & STUDENT MINISTRY

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)



THIS WEEK AT THIRD

Sunday, May 12

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

Monday, May 13

6:00 p.m. Jobs for Life – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 14

12:00 p.m. Helping Hands – Room 217

Wednesday, May 15

6:00 p.m. Jobs for Life Graduation – Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Freedom Road – Conference Room, 500 Forest Ave.

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

Thursday, May 16

6:30 p.m. Healing Prayer Group – Student Ministry Area

6:30 p.m. Parish Worship Team rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Choir practice – Choir Room

Friday, May 17

8:30 a.m. Europe Prayer and Care – Carolyn Oakley's home (804-937-6564)

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.

1. LEARN ABOUT THIRD

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

2. JOIN US FOR COFFEE

Join us for our Welcome Coffee next Sunday, 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 ways that you can get involved.

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.