

true wisdom

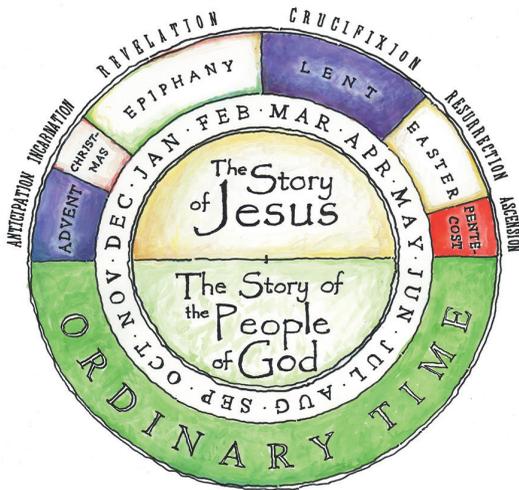
a **faith** *that*
matters

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2019

“Not until we have become humble and teachable, standing in awe of God’s holiness and sovereignty, acknowledging our own littleness, distrusting our own thoughts, and willing to have our minds turned upside down, can divine wisdom become ours.”

J.I. PACKER

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.

We are in the six-month period of Ordinary Time when we remember the story of God’s people as told throughout the Old and New Testaments. In Ordinary Time we are reminded that we are part of a great community of believers throughout time and history that has been called together to bear witness to God’s promises and presence in the world, finally fulfilled in Jesus and his kingdom. The color of this season is green, representing the way God is at work sustaining even the small, ordinary rhythms we experience year by year in his creation, and the way God is calling and empowering his Church to join in the work of renewing all things.

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

“Menuet from Suite Gothique”
(Léon Boëllmann)

Jeff Hummel

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

From Psalm 39:7

Leader: But now, Lord, what do I look for?

People: My hope is in you.

Silent Preparation for Worship

Let's quiet our hearts in preparation for worship.

† Call to Worship

From Psalm 71:5–8

Leader: For you have been our hope, Sovereign Lord,

People: Our confidence since our youth.

Leader: From birth, we have relied on you;

People: We will ever praise you.

Leader: Our mouths are filled with your praise,

Everyone: Declaring your splendor all day long.

Prayer of Adoration

† Songs of Praise

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
“Raise a Hallelujah”

#579 in the Hymnal
Music on page 4

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

RAISE A HALLELUJAH



1. I raise a hal - le - lu - jah in the
 2. I raise a hal - le - lu - jah with
 3. Sing a little louder in the



pres - ence of my en - e - mies. I
 eve - ry - thing in - side of me. I
 pres - ence of my en - e - mies. —



raise a hal - le - lu - jah loud - er than the un - be - lief.
 raise a hal - le - lu - jah I will watch the dark - ness flee.
 Sing a little louder, loud - er than the un - be - lief.



I raise a hal - le - lu - jah; my
 I raise a hal - le - lu - jah in the
 — Sing a little louder. My



weap - on is a mel - o - dy.
 mid - dle of a mys - ter - y.
 weap - on is a mel - o - dy.

I raise a hal - le - lu - jah. Heav - en comes to fight for me.
 I raise a hal - le - lu - jah. Fear, you lost your hold on me.
 — Sing a little louder. — Heav - en comes to fight for me.

Lord, help me to sing in the mid - dle of the storm.

Loud - er and loud - er, you're gon - na hear my prais - es roar.

Up from the ash - es, hope will a - rise. Death is de - feat - ed,

the King — is a - live! _____

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Prayer of Confession

From The Book of Common Worship

Leader: Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:
cleanse us from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,
confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,
and finding in you our refuge and strength,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Silent Confession

Words of Comfort

From Psalm 103:11–13

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him.

**People: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

Leader: As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

People: Thanks be to God!

† 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

Pray for Jeremiah Marsden as he coaches, mentors, and counsels children navigating the challenges of cross-cultural childhood and deciding how best to follow Jesus and live out what he's called them to do.

Noisy Offering (8:45 and 10:00 services)

THANKSGIVING

Offertory

"Is He Worthy?"
(Peterson/Shive, arr. Sorenson)

Team / Choir

Do you feel the world is broken? We do.

Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do.

But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? We do.

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.

Is all creation groaning? It is.

Is a new creation coming? It is.

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? It is.

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,

He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

Is he worthy? Is he worthy of all blessing and honor and glory? Is he worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? He does.

Does the Spirit move among us? He does.

And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those he loves? He does.

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,

He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

From ev'ry people and tribe, ev'ry nation and tongue,

He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.

Is he worthy? Is he worthy of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is he worthy? Is he worthy? Is he worthy of this?

He is!

† 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

James 3:13–18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONDING

† **Song of Response** “God of Grace and God of Glory” #926 in the Hymnal

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Father, you give wisdom generously to all who ask. Humble us before your mighty power and love; keep us this week in the posture of dependent children, that we may walk in the way of wisdom, humility and love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, the kingdoms of the world are yours; guide the leaders of the earth in your path of wisdom. Rescue nations and release peoples from the powers of evil and from every temptation to violence, greed, and conflict, that your justice and peace may be known throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Spirit of wisdom and life, you sometimes lead us into the wilderness, into times of trial by sickness, hunger, oppression, and death. Deliver and protect refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger. Grant relief to the poor and unemployed, freedom to the persecuted, health to the sick, and comfort to all who suffer in mind or body. Lord, in your mercy, **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: David Hacker, Ruth Ann Blakely, Julie Walden, Noel and Stephanie Brooks, 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: Erika Gouverneur (brother, 7/9); Will Allen (grandmother, 6/29); Anne Allen (6/15); Amy Grigg (father, 6/12); Marjorie Parker (4/16); Pam Douglas (father, 4/22); Ken Newsome (father, 4/16); Bonnie Smith (husband Marc, 4/8)

For Metro Richmond: We pray for governments and governing bodies of metropolitan Richmond: for the supervisors of Henrico County, the county administrator, and all county employees.

SENDING

† Song of Commission

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'm gonna live so God can use me! Anywhere, Lord, any time.

I'm gonna live so God can use me! Anywhere, Lord, any time.

I'm gonna work so God can use me! Anywhere, Lord, any time.

I'm gonna work so God can use me! Anywhere, Lord, any time.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me! Anywhere, Lord, any time.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me! Anywhere, Lord, any time.

I'm gonna sing so God can use me! Anywhere, Lord, any time.

I'm gonna sing so God can use me! Anywhere, Lord, any time.

† Commission and Benediction

From 1 Peter 2:11–12

Leader: Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude
(11:15 service only)

"The Rejoicing"
(G. F. Handel)

Jeff Hummel

SERVICE NOTES

Today's flowers are given by Rick and Sue Hendrickson in memory of her mother, Becky Sloomweg.

NEWS & EVENTS

We need your help! Serve with Family Ministry Teams This Fall

You may have noticed that we have a growing and thriving family ministry at Third. This is great news and you can be part of it. We're looking for folks to volunteer in classrooms for the upcoming Sunday school year. We need classroom helpers to serve twice a month and buddies to consistently work one-on-one with some of our students. You'd serve our church family and be a vital part of passing on the good news of Jesus to the children of Third.

Contact Kathy or Tracie for more info: kathyw@thirdrva.org, traciem@thirdrva.org.

Donate to our Backpack Drive in partnership with the Christian Arabic Church August 4, 11, 18

Donate a backpack filled with school supplies this August to help support new immigrant families in the area. The Christian Arabic Church, who meets in our building on Sunday evenings, uses these backpacks as an outreach tool, supplying them to the immigrant and refugee families who need them. Be a blessing to our community by helping families who live right here in the West End. Full list of needed supplies can be found at: thirdrva.org/events.

Meet Our Mission Partner: Linda Lemon – Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4

Next week, you have two chances to meet our mission partner Linda Lemon, who serves with CRU in Lyon, France. Meet her on 7:00 p.m. Saturday night, August 3 at LJ's home (10505 Mountainbrook Court) or Sunday lunch, August 4 in the Parlor. For more about Linda or more info on the Saturday evening gathering, visit: thirdrva.org/events.

Please note: our Sunday school classes are changing next week! Updates are on page 15.

FAMILY & STUDENT MINISTRY

In the summer, we encourage families to worship together in the Sanctuary, as we believe that it's important to learn—even from a young age—to worship with your whole church community. Then join us during the 10:00 hour for our intergenerational class in the Fellowship Hall, "My House in Mission." More information about this class can be found on the following page.

Nursery care is still available during all services for children aged Kindergarten and younger.

Infants, toddlers, 2 year olds

First Floor

Young 3s–Kindergarten

Second Floor

SUNDAY DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Join us this week for one of our Sunday school class opportunities. All of our classes meet at 10:00 a.m. (locations are listed below). Visit thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship for full descriptions about each class.

Delta: Young Adult Community and Conversation

Room 217

Led by Drew Cleveland

Are you in your 20–30s and looking for a place to connect and grow at Third? Join us on Sunday mornings for coffee, snacks, conversation and teaching.

Metamorphosis Class

Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

Led by Mary Damon

Focusing on a stand-alone topic each week, we will discuss issues that plague all Christians in daily living, such as powerlessness, surrender, willingness, change, and belief.

Good News Class

Room 101

The Good News Class is a gathering of all age groups and backgrounds for the purpose of renewing our minds through the study of God's holy word.

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

My House in Mission: A 7-week intergenerational class

*Fellowship Hall | Led by LJ Jaworski
and Donald Marsden*

No matter your age or stage, from kindergarten to senior adults, your house can be a place where God's mission is at the center. Join us for this seven-week intergenerational Sunday school class in which, together with some of our mission partners, we'll explore the practices of hearing God's word, prayer, hospitality, generosity, networking, and reaching out in the name of Jesus from our homes. This class is open to all in the church, and children kindergarten and older are encouraged to attend with their parents.

Note: This is the final week that My House in Mission and the Good News Class will meet. The Good News Class will resume on Sunday, September 8.

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, drop it in the offering plate, and we'll be in touch.

2. 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.

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.