

# RELENTING MERCY

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DISRUPTIVE  
GRACE

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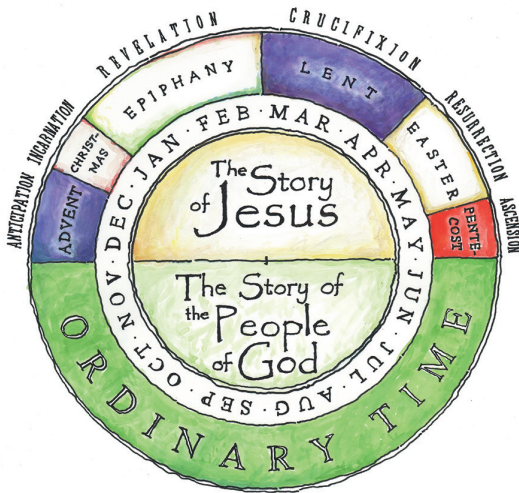
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

"God's mercy is so great that you may sooner drain the sea of its water, or deprive the sun of its light, or make space too narrow, than diminish the great mercy of God."

C.H. SPURGEON

## 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.

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

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

### **Prelude**

“Man of Sorrows”  
(arr. Kirkland)

Churchestra

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Preparation for Worship**

From Psalm 62:1

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence;

**People: From him comes my salvation.**

### **Silent Preparation for Worship**

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

### **† Call to Worship**

From Psalm 113

Leader: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord.

**People: Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.**

Leader: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised. The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.

**People: Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?**

Leader: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.

**People: Praise the Lord!**

### **Prayer of Adoration**

### **† Songs of Praise**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”  
“Raise a Hallelujah”

#601 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

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

### Prayer of Confession

From Morten Lauridsen's "Lux Aeterna"

Leader:     O light most blessed,  
              fill the inmost heart of all the faithful.  
              Without your grace, there is nothing in us,  
              nothing that is not harmful.

People:     **Cleanse what is sordid,  
              flood what is arid,  
              heal what is hurt,  
              flex what is rigid,  
              fire what is frigid,  
              correct what goes astray.**

### Silent Confession

#### Words of Comfort and Assurance

Leader:     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:     In and through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People:     **Thanks be to God!**

# THANKSGIVING

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## Joining of new Covenant Partners

**8:45 service:** Frank and Sally Acevedo (Northwest), Joseph and Susan Petrillo (Chesterfield), David and Kathy Short (Lauderdale), Phillip and Rebecca Smith (Chesterfield), Bob and Janie Stack (Mooreland).

**10:00 service:** Brew and Genevieve Emblar (Grove), Davidson Faunce (Grove), Chris and Carolyn Kochard (City North), Bryce and Jody Lyle (City South), Noah and Sarah Pollack (City East), Lauren Wright (City South).

**11:15 service:** Elizabeth Daniel (City North), Haynes and Mary Katharine Hill (Three Chopt), Timothy Nguyen (City South), Sarah Stanley (City North), Evan and Calli Stehle (City South).

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

**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:** Eileen Raynor, Pam Smith, Mary Ann Hancock, Frances Eichost, Brad Bishop, Noel and Stephanie Brooks, David Hacker, Julie Walden, Christie Geraty, Milton Jones

**For comfort for those who have lost loved ones:** Gay Plack (9/17); Stan Button (9/12); Mark Mendez (grandfather, 8/27); Bev Newell (mother, 8/21); John Hanscom (Lou Hanscom, wife, 8/21); Lee Sauvain (mother, 8/20); Chip Buehler (father, 8/14), James and David Hacker (Myrtle Hacker, mother, 8/12); Betty Cox (8/8); Rebecca Hatton (brother, 8/7)

**For Metro Richmond:** We pray for schools and educational institutions of metropolitan Richmond: for curriculum that is grounded in truth and meaning; for space to nourish the creative seed in both teachers and students.

## † 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

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## Our Offerings

Pray for our mission partner Linda Lemon in France as she seeks, through counseling and training ministry, to support and care for mission workers in France as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ, start new churches, and equip God's people to do the work of ministry.

## Offertory

"Be Still, My Soul"  
(arr. Kirkland)

Churchestra

Be still, my soul! The Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul! Thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! Thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul! The hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul! When change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## † 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

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*God speaks to us through his word.*

### Scripture Reading

Jonah 3:1–10

<sup>1</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

<sup>3</sup> Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup> Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” <sup>5</sup> The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup> When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. <sup>7</sup> This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.

<sup>8</sup> But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God!**



## SENDING

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† **Song of Commission**      “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”      #772 in the Hymnal

† **Commission and Benediction**      From 2 Peter 3:9, 13

**Leader:**      The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness.  
Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,  
but everyone to come to repentance.

**People:**      **In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven  
and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.**

**Postlude**      “O Worship the King”      Churchestra  
(arr. Kirkland)

## SERVICE NOTES

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**Today’s flowers** are given in honor our mission partner, Linda Lemon.

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Capital Campaign Informational Meeting Thursday, October 3, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

We are in the beginning stages of organizing for the launch of an exciting capital campaign for our church community to renew and renovate our church building and more. All are invited for this informational meeting to get oriented to the vision for the campaign and hear an overview of our approach. Doug Turner, our consultant from the Culture of Ready group, will be on hand to lead this time alongside Corey.

### **World Communion Sunday: Pray for the Nations – Sunday, October 6**

Next Sunday, we are celebrating World Communion Sunday with thousands of churches around the world. Plan to come down to the Fellowship Hall in between services for a special time of prayer. There will be a world map on the floor, and you will be able to stand on the map and pray for specific needs for specific countries and regions. Event is great for all ages, and open from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Prayer guides will be available.

### **Today! Discovery Camp 2020: Informational Meeting – 12:30 p.m. Room 101**

Next summer Third will premiere *Discovery Camp*, an exploration of art, science, and music. We'd love for our congregation to be involved in teaching our students in these interest areas. If you are an artist, a science enthusiast, or someone who has hobbies in the arts and are interested in volunteering, please come and learn more about this opportunity, and how you might be involved! Questions? Contact Tracie Meadows: [traciem@thirdrva.org](mailto:traciem@thirdrva.org).

### **Tomorrow: Guest Speaker from Frontier Fellowship: M.K. Bharti from India September 30, 7:00 p.m., Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Ave.**

M.K. Bharti is our mission partner through Frontier Fellowship. He is from North India and will be here to give us an update on the explosion happening within church growth in parts of India. He is the Founder of the New Life Mission Church and Director of the Bless Ganges Connection, a powerful and effective church planting movement in North India. Come and learn about this ministry that is planting thousands of house churches!

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Immigrant and Refugee Tutoring: Still in Need of Tutors!**

Our thriving tutoring program is underway and we have almost 100 students looking for tutors! We still need about 10 more tutors to pair with these students. Tutoring takes place on Wednesday evenings (6:45 – 7:45 p.m.) for 10 weeks. No experience necessary! Just a willingness to help. Contact Andi: [andi.redmond6@gmail.com](mailto:andi.redmond6@gmail.com).

### **2nd Grade Bible Dinner Presentation**

#### **Sunday, October 20, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Third's second grade students and their families are invited to attend the annual 2nd Grade Bible Presentation Dinner, one our Faith Milestones. Each year, these students and their families share a meal together and hear a message on the importance of God's word in their lives. Then we worship together and each student is presented with an inscribed Adventure Bible. RSVP by October 14 to Tracie Meadows ([traciem@thirdrva.org](mailto:traciem@thirdrva.org)).

### **Read Along: *Richmond's Unhealed History* by Ben Campbell**

#### **A Self-Guided Book Study**

Starting Sunday, October 6 in the courtyard, pick up a copy of the book *Richmond's Unhealed History* by Ben Campbell (\$15), along with a self-guided study curriculum put together by Third's Jason Snook and LJ Jaworski. Then on Friday evening, November 1, come hear a special epilogue to the book from the author, Ben Campbell. The book is a detailed look at the history of Richmond, the crises that have formed our city, and the potential our city has for redemption and renewal.

### **Men's Ministry: Outdoor Event (Kids Welcome!)**

#### **Saturday, October 19, 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Join us at Steve Krieger's home in Powhatan for a unique outdoor event for dads to bring their children to join with us as we gather. This flexible afternoon and evening will provide lots of open time for us to connect with each other along, get to know each other's children, eat Mission Barbecue for dinner and enjoy a bonfire. For the full schedule, details, and to RSVP: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events).

## *FAMILY & STUDENT MINISTRY*

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**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) |

**Need help?** Look for volunteers wearing gold or blue name badges. They can help answer your questions, find where to take your kids, and guide you around our building.

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### **Student Ministry: Sunday Night Gatherings**

Students in 7th–12th grade are welcome to join us on Sunday evenings in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Contact Rick ([rickh@thirdrva.org](mailto:rickh@thirdrva.org)) or Andrea ([andreaw@thirdrva.org](mailto:andreaw@thirdrva.org)) with any questions.

## SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

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Our new season of adult Sunday school classes has started! If you've never checked out our Sunday morning classes, it's the perfect time to start. All classes meet at 10:00 a.m. For full class descriptions, visit: [thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship](http://thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship).

### **Delta: Young Adult Community and Conversation**

*Room 217*

Are you in your 20–30s or college age and looking for a place to connect with others and grow at Third? Join us for coffee, conversation and teaching on how to connect faith to daily life, work, relationships and culture.

### **Good News Class**

*Room 101*

Expository Bible teaching of the Gospel of Mark in the tradition of inductive Bible study. Our teachers ask the three classic questions of each text: (i) what does it say; (ii) what did it mean to them (the original audience); and (iii) what does it mean to us? This class is centered on understanding and applying God's word for his glory and our growth as his people.

### **Study of Acts**

*Room 213*

The Reveal Class will continue our study of the book of Acts, exploring through UP, IN and OUT observations the missionary themes that Luke narrates. The mission of God's people always involves our theology, our community, and our outreach.

### **Metamorphosis Class**

*Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue*

We are a diverse community seeking God's healing and wholeness for the brokenness in our lives and families through safe, authentic Christian relationships. This fall, we'll read *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Richard Rohr. We'll examine how our brokenness can be the springboard for spiritual growth, no matter what half of life we are in.

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

# WELCOME!

¡Bienvenido! 欢迎! مرحباً Добро пожаловать!

We're so glad you're here.

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## 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.

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## 2. LEARN ABOUT THIRD

Feel free to stop by our welcome table in the hallway off the front of the sanctuary to learn more about our community. For more information, visit our website at [thirdrva.org](http://thirdrva.org).

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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).