



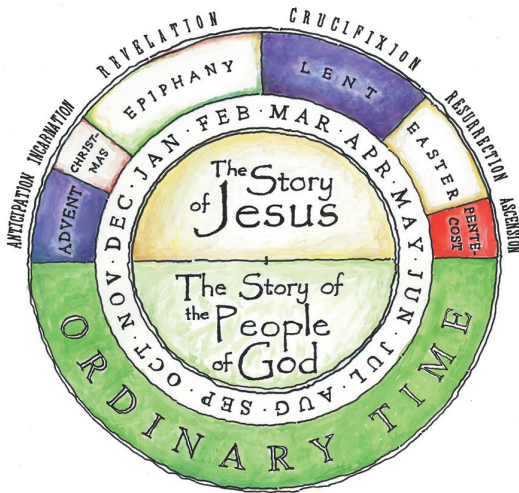
STEWARDED THE GOSPEL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

"The gospel of the kingdom of God... is the only one based on self-sacrificing love instead of worldly power, the only one offered by a king on a cross, the only one offered by a conquering lion who turns out to be a slaughtered lamb."

CHARLES R. TABER

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

“Now Thank We All Our God”
(Michael Burkhardt)

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

† Call to Worship

From Psalm 67

Leader: May the peoples praise you, God;

People: **May all the peoples praise you.**

Leader: May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

People: **For you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of all the earth.**

Leader: May the peoples praise you, God;

Everyone: **May all the peoples praise you.**

Prayer of Adoration

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

GATHERING

† **Songs of Praise**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”
“The Lion and the Lamb”

#601 in the Hymnal
Words below

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 sin 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

Prayer of Confession

Everyone: **Almighty God,**
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify
your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Comfort and Assurance

From Lamentations 3:22–24

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!**

† 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

From 1 Chronicles 29:14

Leader: Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?

**People: For all things come from you
and what we now offer is already yours.**

Please pray for our mission partner Set Free, a ministry which offers hope and healing through the Lord Jesus Christ to all individuals who struggle with sexual sin and its resultant brokenness, through support groups, couples counseling, and education to families, friends and churches dealing with these issues.

Offertory (8:45 and 10:00 services)

“King of Kings”

Worship Team

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
Till from heaven you came running. There was mercy in your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a Virgin came the Word,
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, Three in One.
God of glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
To redeem the whole creation you did not despise the cross.
For even in your suffering, you saw to the other side.
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake you died.

And the morning that you rose, all of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe,
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By his blood and in his Name, in his freedom I am free,
For the love of Jesus Christ, who has resurrected me.

THANKSGIVING

Offertory
(11:15 service)

“O God Beyond All Praising”

Choir

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

For we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
For Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
And we through Him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

† **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

Romans 1:1–6, 14–17; 2 Timothy 1:5–14

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

RESPONDING

Over the last six weeks, we have considered the great biblical truth that everything we have has been given to us by God, entrusted to us for his purposes in the world. Our lives, our money, our time, our possessions, our abilities, our talents, our work, our platform, our vocational position and influence, our families, our bodies: all of these things do not belong to us, but are given by the Owner in order that we would be a part of loving our neighbor, shaping a more just and peaceful community, and advancing the kingdom of Jesus in the world.

As we end this series, consider the following:

- What is one thing in your life (time, money, skills, job, family, etc.) that God is calling you to more fully surrender to him, recognizing that you are only the steward, not the owner?
- How will you, going forward, seek to use that thing for God's purposes in the world?

Take time to surrender yourself to God. Perhaps use this prayer: "I consecrate all that I am and all that I have, the faculties of my mind, the members of my body, my worldly possessions, my time, and my influence over others, all to be used entirely for thy glory and resolutely employed in obedience to thy commands as long as Thou continuest me in life." Thomas Maclellan

Sung refrain: *I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

Prayer Needs

For health: Terry Jones, Pam Smith, Laurie Marsden, Lynn Pendleton, Danny Yacher, 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: Janice Allen (father, 11/12; mother, 9/28); June Keller (husband, Joe, 11/11); Chip Buehler (brother, 11/7); Wendy Rogers (father, 11/5); Lynne Hildebrand (brother, 10/27); Russ Corson, Laura Blacano (wife and grandmother, Wilma, 10/21); Cindy Cave (mother, 10/19); Arthur McCray (father, 10/11); Christine Darby (brother, 10/10)

For Metro Richmond: We pray for persons in financial need in metropolitan Richmond; for the inclusion of all (regardless of race, age, or residency) in the economic health of metropolitan Richmond; for effective, affordable, regional public transportation to support job access.

SENDING

† **Song of Commission** “Lift High the Cross” #264 in the Hymnal

† **Commission and Benediction** Colossians 3:16–17

Leader: Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly
 as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
 through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit,
 singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

**Everyone: And whatever we do, whether in word or deed,
 may we do all of it in the name of the Lord Jesus,
 giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

Postlude “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” Jeff Hummel
(11:15 service only) (Diane Bish)

SERVICE NOTES

Today’s flowers are given in memory of James Layne Chambers, Jr. by Blair and Will Bigelow and Erin and Grant Holbrook in celebration of their father’s life, love and legacy.

Today we celebrate the birth of Evalyn Louise Henderson, born to Anna and Keith Henderson on November 20.

NEWS & EVENTS

Family Advent Celebration – Sunday, December 1, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

On December 1, instead of our normal Sunday school (for children ages 4-4th grade), we're hosting a special gathering to kick off the season of Advent together and prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth. Children and their parents should plan to attend the 8:45 or 11:15 a.m. service, and then meet us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.

Women's Christmas Dinner – Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Join the women of Third for this evening of good food, fellowship and a reflection during the Advent season. The dinner is free, but please bring a dish to share and a small gift to donate to the Stocking Stuffer gift drive, and RSVP via the link on our website: thirdrva.org/events.

STEP Christmas Store – Now Accepting Donations!

Our mission partner STEP is collecting donations of new, unwrapped children's gifts (with the original purchase price intact) to be marked to half price or less and made available to parents living in Gilpin Court. Donations can be placed on the shelf across from the infant nursery by December 4.

Lessons and Carols – Sunday, December 8, 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols is a special annual service that tells God's story of creation, fall, redemption, and re-creation through scripture readings and carols. We will prepare our hearts to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and to anticipate that day when he will come again. Childcare available at the 4:00 p.m. service only.

We're hiring! Check out our job postings

We are currently hiring for two positions: Associate Director of Family Ministry (nursery through preschool focus) and Associate Director of Parish Ministry. For full job descriptions and to apply: thirdrva.org/employment.

Donate Poinsettias for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Order a red poinsettia for \$12.50 each in memory of a loved one and help beautify our worship spaces during Advent. Contact Rebecca by December 9 to order (282-4645, or rebeccah@thirdrva.org). Your plant can be claimed after the final Christmas Eve service.

Attention, Parents! College Student Brunch – Saturday, November 30

We're hosting a brunch next Saturday from 11–1 p.m. at the Hales' home for students home for Thanksgiving. Students are invited to share a meal and our experiences with faith and college. RSVP to Drew Cleveland drewc@thirdrva.org; 703-901-1606 .

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)

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.

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) or Andrea (andreaw@thirdrva.org) with any questions.

THIS WEEK AT THIRD

24 Sunday **Praying for Our Nation**
12:30 p.m., Parlor

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

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.

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 continues 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're reading *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.

2019 BUDGET UPDATE

2019 Total Annual Budget
\$4,003,155

October YTD Giving Budget
\$2,854,250

October YTD Giving Actual
\$2,693,285

(difference: \$160,965)



As we begin to close out 2019 and prepare our budget for 2020, we want to share with our church family how the Lord is providing for our finances this year. We are grateful for his provision thus far, and look to him in the weeks to come.

Year-to-date giving through October was \$2,693,285, which is approximately \$160,965, or 5.6%, short of budgeted expectations. It is worth noting that our annual giving budget remains heavily dependent on November and December giving as, historically, close to 30% of our annual giving occurs during these two months. We faithfully rest in God's grace and provision, and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to stir our hearts with overflowing and joyful generosity to meet the commitments to which God has called us.

We give praise for God's faithfulness and generosity and invite you to pray that our financial gifts will empower Third's ministry and mission at Forest Avenue, in Richmond and around the world. Your gifts have Kingdom impact.

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

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.

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.