

WAITING FOR THE
H A R V E S T

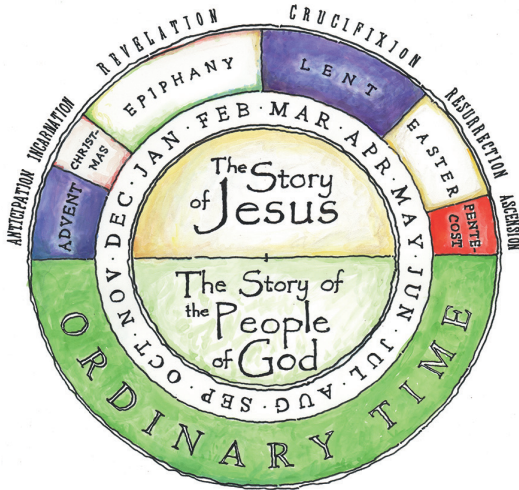
WAITING FOR THE KING
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019

"Advent—the four-week period that leads up to Christmas—is a series of events designed not to delay the celebration of Christmas, but to enhance it. It's a kind of delayed gratification that culminates in a satisfaction that is all the richer for the waiting."

JOAN CHITTISTER

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.

The liturgical year starts with the season of Advent, when we begin a four-week vigil waiting for the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, into our hurting world. The purple banners, Advent wreath and window candles, and twig and evergreen decorations now adorning our Sanctuary reflect this season of longing for new life, and help us prepare to celebrate Christmas all the more. As we progress through this month-long season, we’ll light a new candle on the Advent wreath each week and add new greenery and other markers of God’s in-breaking love. On Christmas Eve we’ll replace the purple with banners and decorations in white and gold that will carry us into the New Year and to Epiphany.

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

"Prelude on 'Hyfrydol'"
(Raymond Haan)

Jeff Hummel

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

From Psalm 51:10

Leader: Make our hearts clean, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

People: **Amen.**

Silent Preparation for Worship

† Call to Worship

From Psalm 84

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place,

People: **O Lord of hosts!**

Leader: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;

People: **My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Leader: Happy are those whose strength is in you,

People: **In whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Leader: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

People: **O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!**

Prayer of Adoration

† Songs of Praise

"Come Light Our Hearts"
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Music on page 4
#56 in the Hymnal

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

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS



Words and Music: Sandra McCracken; ©2014 Drink Your Tea Music

CONFESSING

Prayer of Confession

Everyone: Jesus Lord, in your mercy,
by your holy life that heals us,
by your holy death that saves us,
by your Holy Spirit with us,
come to cleanse these sinners that we are.
Set us free to obey you;
make us clear to stand before you;
then, for your mercy, we will praise you.
Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Comfort

Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Everyone: **Only Christ.**

Leader: And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; the new life has begun!
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

Everyone: **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

Please pray for our mission partner Karen Carr as she provides training and counseling for mission workers in East and West Africa together with the Mobile Mission Care Team.

Offertory "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Choir
(8:45 service) (Manz)

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.

Sing "Holy, holy" to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing "Holy, holy Lord!"

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Offertory "How Long?" Worship Team
(10:00 and 11:15 service)

How long will you turn your face away?
How long? Do you hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way. How long?

How long 'til your children find their rest?
How long 'til you draw them to your breast?
We go on holding to your promises. How long?

*'Til you wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye.
'Til we see our home descending from the sky.
Do we wait in vain? Jesus, give us hope again!*

How long 'til your word will still the storm?
How long 'til you bare your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til you snatch us from the thorns! How long?

† **Glory Be to the Father**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.***

PROCLAIMING

God speaks to us through his word.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:24–30

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONDING

We respond to God's word.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Everyone: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy and merciful God, our Father,
you have made us in your image and for yourself.
You have made this good world for us to tend and to enjoy.
God, our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Leader: You sought your ancient people when they strayed from you.
You freed them from the oppressor and brought them home.
God, our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Leader: You have sent your Son to bring us home to you.
By his Incarnation—

People: You have found us.

Leader: By his Death—

People: You have forgiven us.

Leader: By his Resurrection—

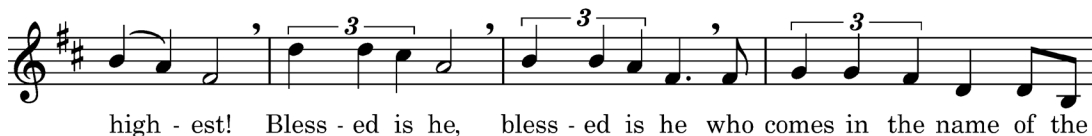
People: You have freed us.

Leader: God, our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

RESPONDING

Leader: In union with Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Great High Priest, and with all who worship you, both in heaven and on earth, we offer you our praise, singing:



Words: Sanctus; Music © 2017 Kim Taulbee

RESPONDING

Words of Institution

From 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

Leader: Holy and merciful God, our Father, send down your Holy Spirit on our bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and on your people, that we may be the body of Christ, reconciled to you and to each other by his blood. By your Holy Spirit make us—

**People: One with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in mission to all the world,**

Leader: Until Christ shall come in final victory
and we feast together at his heavenly banquet. We cry,

People: Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come.

RESPONDING

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is one of the two sacraments we celebrate (the other is baptism). It is one of the most important things we do when we gather together, because the bread and juice are concrete signs of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. When we come forward to receive them, we believe that Jesus is actually present through the Holy Spirit, extending his grace and forgiveness to us.

We welcome anyone to the table who is willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. If you are not able to receive Communion, we invite you to use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

Prayer of Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Lead me into the light and life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more blind and sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete acceptance. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

– Adapted from prayers written by Rev. Scot Sherman, Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

RESPONDING

Communion Song

"The Simple Birth"
(Barbara Higbie, arr. McKinley Sprinkle)

Worship Team

The Lord's Prayer

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: 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 the families of metropolitan Richmond: for single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, and for households that are communities of friends; for elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions.

SENDING

† 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 Titus 2:11–14

Leader: For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Everyone: **He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**

Postlude
(11:15 service only)

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”
(Paul Manz)

Jeff Hummel

SERVICE NOTES

Today’s flowers are given in honor of our mission partner Karen Carr.

NEWS & EVENTS

Today at 10:00 a.m. – Family Advent Celebration

Join us during the Sunday school hour for our annual Advent Celebration. Children ages 4–4th grade and their parents/guardians are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for singing, a message on Advent, and time for families to create a craft together (we will not have Sunday school today for the four year olds – 4th graders).

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

Join the women of Third for this special evening of good food, fellowship and a reflection during the Advent season. The dinner is free, but we ask that you bring a dish to share, bring a small gift to donate to the Covenant Woods Stocking Stuffer gift drive, and RSVP via the link on our website. More info at: 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. Recommended gifts: stuffed animals, arts and crafts, sports equipment, blocks, electronics, toy cars, African-American dolls, educational toys and gift cards to fast food restaurants. All donations can be placed in the box across from the infant nursery by December 4.

NEWS & EVENTS

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 beautiful story of creation, fall, redemption, and re-creation through the reading of Scripture and the singing of traditional and modern carols. Using creative musical styles and instruments, we 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. Our search process is open to all qualified candidates from within and outside the church body. We look forward and pray for the Lord to lead us to the candidate that best fits the position. For full job descriptions and to apply: thirdva.org/employment.

Donate Poinsettias for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall!

Help to enhance worship and beautify our worship spaces during Advent and then enjoy the seasonal beauty at home. Order a red poinsettia for \$12.50 each in memory or honor of a loved one. Contact Rebecca Hatton by December 9 to place your order (rebeccah@thirdva.org or 282-4645, ext. 1101). Your plant can be claimed after the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service concludes.

FAMILY & STUDENT MINISTRY

Today at 10:00 a.m. – Family Advent Celebration

Join us during the Sunday school hour for our annual Advent Celebration. Children ages 4–4th grade and their parents/guardians are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for singing, a message on Advent, and time for families to create a craft together (we will not have Sunday school today for the four year olds – 4th graders).

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, join us for our Family Advent Celebration, or go to a Sunday school class:

Infants, toddlers, 2 year olds	First Floor
3 year olds	Second Floor
4 year olds–4th grade	Family Advent Celebration: Fellowship Hall
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.

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

During December, most of our adult Sunday school classes are taking a break. However, here are some opportunities you can drop into this week during the 10:00 a.m. hour.

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.

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

THIS WEEK AT THIRD

- 3** Tuesday **Women's Weekly Morning Study**
9:30 a.m., Room 213 (joyce.koontz@gmail.com)
- 4** Wednesday **Freedom Road Recovery Community**
6:30 p.m., Conference Room, 500 Forest Ave (merryoh@gmail.com)
- 5** Thursday **Healing Prayer Group**
6:30 p.m., Student Ministry Area (denamnelson@yahoo.com)

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. 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 on Sunday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. You'll meet a few people and learn about Third's vision, beliefs, and how 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.