

WAITING FOR THE  
MESSIAH

————— WAITING FOR THE KING —————  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019

“It was not suddenly and unannounced that Jesus came into the world. He came into a world that had been prepared for him. The whole Old Testament is the story of a special preparation.... Only when all was ready, only in the fullness of his time, did Jesus come.”

PHILLIPS BROOKS

## 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.

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. The gold and white “chrismon” tree at the front of the Sanctuary features decorations made by earlier generations of Third members which represent the many names and symbols for Jesus used by the Church through the centuries. 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.

### **Poinsettia Contributions**

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- Sue and Rick Hendrickson, in memory of their parents.
- Jim and Liz Slate, in memory of loved ones.
- Jim and Liz Slate, in celebration of our families.
- Agnes Smith, in memory of loved ones.
- Diane, Robert, Paul and Frank Atkinson in memory of P. T. and Margaret Atkinson and Peggy (Atkinson) Rosen and Robert and Barbara Trifari.
- Holly Smith, in memory of her mom, Ruth Hovelson.
- Bruce and Janet Kay, in memory of loved ones.
- Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Myers, in memory of our parents.
- Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Myers, in memory of Patricia V. Myers.
- Marlene and Gary Short, in memory of Steve Keister, Marlene’s brother, and Alpha Fess, Marlene’s mother and Kat Short, Gary’s mother.
- In memory of Adrian Dru Fitch from his family.
- In memory of Myrtle Hacker from Faye and Cullen Rivers.
- Kathy and Jimey Ames, in memory of Ruth Hovelson.
- Cindy Cave, in memory of her mother, David Williams Cave.
- Kathleen and Malachi Mills, in loving memory of Adelaide and Malachi Mills II and in honor of Betty and Donald Brantley.

## GATHERING

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

### Prelude

"Festive Gloria"  
(Aaron David Miller)

Jeff Hummel

### Welcome and Announcements

### Preparation for Worship

From Psalm 62:5

Leader: For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait;

**People: Truly our hope is in you.**

### Silent Preparation for Worship

#### † Call to Worship

From Luke 1:46–50

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord!

**People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

Leader: The mighty One has done great things for us!

**People: Holy is God's name!**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**People: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;  
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

### Prayer of Adoration

#### † Songs of Praise

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"  
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

#81 in the Hymnal

#79 in the Hymnal

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

## CONFESSING

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### Prayer of Confession

Leader: Merciful God, always with us, always coming;

**People: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.  
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;  
We have ignored the promise of your kingdom;  
We get distracted by all the busyness of this season.**

Leader: Forgive us, God.

**People: Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,  
the intelligent courage of the Magi,  
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,  
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem  
and find the good news of a child born for us.**

Leader: Now, in the quiet of our hearts,  
we ask you to make us ready for his coming.

**People: Amen.**

### Silent Confession

### Words of Comfort

Leader: My friends, hear the Christmas angel: "Fear not!" God's holiness and righteousness are not proclaimed in order to condemn us, but to lift us up, to enable us to become the people God created us to be from the beginning. Through the mercy and blood of Christ your sins are forgiven.

**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

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## Our Offerings

Please pray for our mission partner Richard Haney and Frontier Fellowship, as they help Presbyterian churches to be engaged in establishing new churches among indigenous people groups around the world.

## Offertory (8:45 and 10:00 services)

“What Child Is This?”

Worship Team

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping,  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

## THANKSGIVING

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**Offertory**  
**(11:15 service)**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”  
(Ijames)

Choir

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And brought to us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain, the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!  
Christ is born!

† **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

Matthew 1:1–17

<sup>1</sup> This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

<sup>3</sup> Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

<sup>4</sup> Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

<sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

<sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

<sup>7</sup> Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

<sup>8</sup> Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

<sup>9</sup> Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

<sup>10</sup> Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,

<sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

## PROCLAIMING

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<sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

<sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,

Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

<sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

<sup>15</sup> Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

<sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

<sup>17</sup> Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**





## RESPONDING

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† **Song of Response**

“God With Us”

Worship Team

Oh, you’ve come to bring peace, to be love, to be nearer to us.  
You’ve come to bring life, to be light, to shine brighter in us.  
Oh, Emmanuel, God with us.

*Our Deliverer, you are Savior.  
In your presence we find our strength.  
Over everything, our Redemption,  
God with us, you are God with us.*

Oh, you’ve come to be hope to this world, for your honor and name.  
And you’ve come to take sin, to bear shame, and to conquer the grave.  
Oh, Emmanuel, God with us.

*You are here. You are holy.  
We are standing in your glory.*

### **Prayers of the People and 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.**

## SENDING

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† **Song of Commission**                      “Joy to the World!”                      #92 in the Hymnal

† **Commission and Benediction**                      From Titus 2:11–13

Leader:            The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
                         training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions,  
                         and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
                         while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation  
                         of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People:            Let us live now in the power of Christ, to the praise of his name!**

† **Choral Benediction**                      “Hallelujah” from *Messiah*                      Choir  
**(11:15 service only)**                      (Handel)

*Congregation members are invited to join the choir to sing “Hallelujah” together.*

**Postlude**                      “Recessional on ‘I Saw Three Ships’”                      Jeff Hummel  
**(11:15 service only)**                      (Douglas Wagner)

### Prayer Needs

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**For health:** Bradley Crawford, Randy Raggio, Elaine Turner, Cheryl Fluckiger, Terry Jones, Pam Smith, Laurie Marsden, Lynn Pendleton, Eileen Raynor, Pam Smith, Brad Bishop, Noel and Stephanie Brooks, David Hacker, Julie Walden, Christie Geraty, Milton Jones

**For comfort for those who have lost loved ones:** Frances Eichost (11/20); Janice Allen (father, 11/12; mother, 9/28); June Keller (husband, Joe, 11/11); Chip Buehler (brother, 11/7); Wendy Rogers (father, 11/5)

**For Metro Richmond:** We pray for the families of metropolitan Richmond: for an end to child abuse; for healthy relationships between children and their caregivers; for families going through divorce; and for all in the midst of life transitions.

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Celebrate Christmas at Third: Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24**

This year, we will celebrate Christmas Eve with a total of five services:

**4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall:** This service is particularly suitable for our littlest ones as it will follow the same order as the others, but will be shorter in length. We're also inviting children to come dressed as a character from the nativity for this service!

**4:00, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary:** These services will be festive and reverent, ushering in Christmas with our favorite carols, the Christmas story, and candlelight. These services are good for all ages!

*Childcare will be available for children 3 years old and younger during the 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. services.*

### **Sunday Service Schedule Change – Sunday, December 29**

On Sunday morning, December 29, we'll be changing our normal service times. Instead of our three services, we will meet at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, with time in between for meeting and catching up with friends new and old in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Guided Tour of the Bible kicks off again in January 2020**

This 5-week study digs into one section of the Bible, looking at a different book each week, so we can better understand and be impacted by its message. Ed Satterfield authored the Tour and leads our time. Our next study will meet on Thursdays, January 9 – February 6, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Room 217 and will focus on the Letters of Paul. More info and to sign up: [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**

Beginning January 5, 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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Each Sunday, we offer a few different class opportunities for us to go deep on different topics, grow as disciples, and build community. All classes meet at 10:00 a.m.; locations listed below. For full class descriptions, visit: [thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship](http://thirdrva.org/sunday-discipleship).

### **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. We're reading *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr and examining how our brokenness can be the springboard for spiritual growth, no matter what half of life we are in.

### **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.

**Note:** There will be no Sunday School classes held next week, December 29. Classes will resume January 5.

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

## 2019 BUDGET UPDATE

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**2019 Total Annual Budget**  
**\$4,003,155**

November YTD Giving Budget  
\$3,230,546

November YTD Giving Actual  
\$3,114,209

*(difference: \$116,337)*



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 November was \$3,114,209, which is approximately \$116,337, or 3.6%, short of budgeted expectations. It is worth noting that our annual giving budget remains heavily dependent on December giving as, historically, close to 30% of our annual giving occurs during the last months of the year. We faithfully rest in God's grace and provision, and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to stir our hearts with joyful and overflowing 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.

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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 and 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).