

WAITING FOR THE
J U D G E

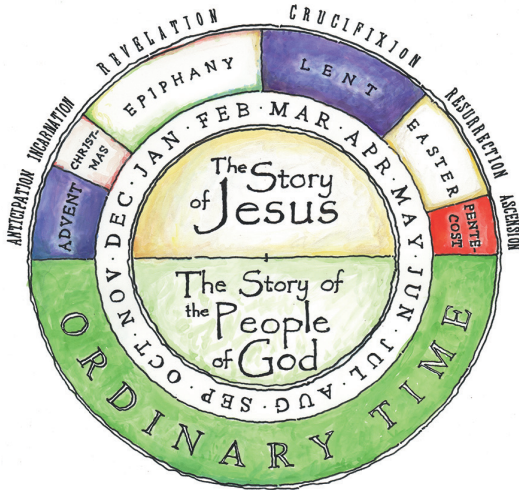
————— WAITING FOR THE KING —————
CHRISTMASTIDE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020

“If we throw ourselves open to God, he will reveal.
The trouble comes when we have closed areas, locked and barred places
in our hearts, where we think, with pride, that we are right.”

WATCHMAN NEE

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.

Having completed the month-long Advent season of waiting for the arrival of Jesus the Messiah, now we joyfully celebrate the arrival of our Savior and King with banners and decorations of white and gold, along with greenery that reminds us of the new and everlasting life found in Christ.

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

Susan Pottle

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

From Habakkuk 2:20

Leader: The Lord is in his holy temple;

People: Let all the earth be silent before him.

Silent 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

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

GATHERING

† **Song of Praise** “Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor” Words below

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for a stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love’s sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising heav’nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

What manner of love is given to us? Hallelujah!
Immanuel has come to us. Hallelujah!

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

† **Song of Praise** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Chorus only) Words below

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

For you alone are worthy, for you alone are worthy,
For you alone are worthy, Christ the Lord!

We give you all the glory, we give you all the glory,
We give you all the glory, Christ the Lord!

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Have mer-cy_ on__ us, have mer-cy_ on__ us,
O Lord, have mer - cy, O Lord have mer - cy.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: When we allow darkness to overcome the light,

People: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Leader: When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching,

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: When the wars around us are of no concern,

People: **Forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.**

Leader: When our caring is not extended to action,

People: **Move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.**

Everyone: **We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.**

We are but dust without your love. Remove all barriers that divide us and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Comfort and Assurance

From 1 Timothy 1:15

Leader: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance:
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

May Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

† 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."

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 Ministry to Educate and Equip (MTEE) as they equip national leaders with skills, character, and education to develop a network of committed, competent, and mature churches and transformational leaders to disciple the nations.

Offertory (8:45 service only)

"If Ye Love Me"

Choir

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father,
And he shall give you another Comforter, that he may bide with you for ever,
Ev'n the Spirit of truth.

THANKSGIVING

Offertory
(10:00 and 11:15 services)

“Beautiful Things”

Worship Team

All this pain—I wonder if I’ll ever find my way.
I wonder if my life could really change at all.

All this earth—could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

*You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of us.*

All around, hope is springing up from this old ground,
Out of chaos, life is being found in you.

*You make me new, you are making me new.
You make me new, you are making me new.*

† **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 3:1–12

¹ In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”

⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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—

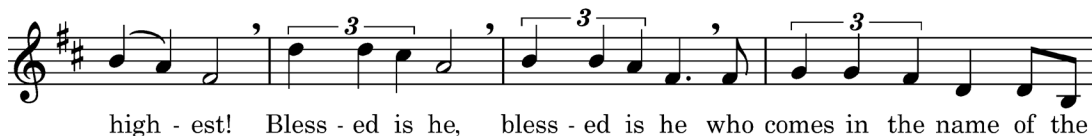
People: You have freed us.

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. Amen!

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 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (Instrumental)

Communion Song “You Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” #225 in the Hymnal

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.

Prayer Needs

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 to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: for the elimination of discrimination in living patterns, public education, employment, political jurisdiction, transportation, and churches in metropolitan Richmond.

SENDING

† **Song of Commission** “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” Words below

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown when thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth thou didst come to earth, and in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for thee.

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word, that should set thy people free;
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn, they bore thee to Calvary.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for thee.

When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing, at thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home, saying, “Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee.”
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, when thou comest and callest for me!

† **Commission and Benediction** (From the Common Book of Prayer)

Leader: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,
 all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden:
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

**People: That we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name,
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Postlude Susan Pottle
(11:15 service only)

SERVICE NOTES

Today's flowers are given in honor of our mission partner Ministry to Educate and Equip (MTEE).

Today we celebrate the birth of Robert Jackson “Jack” Walker, born to Linnea and William Walker on December 19.

NEWS & EVENTS

Renew: A Capital Campaign for Third Church – Launching January 19

Join us on Sunday, January 19 as we officially kick off our new Capital Campaign, *Renew* at all three services. You'll hear a bit about the vision of the campaign, the plans, and how you can be involved. Over the weeks that follow, we'll be hosting more events and opportunities for you to engage with the plans and discern your role. Stay tuned for more info to come and plan to join us on the 19th!

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.

Men's New Year's Dinner – Tuesday, January 14, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

We hope you will join in on a great evening to connect with other men, share a great meal, and be challenged to be all that God intends us to be. Our guest speaker will be Eddie Isler, sharing on the topic of "Am I Enough?" RSVP for this dinner (\$5): thirdrva.org/events.

We're Hiring: Finance Accountant

We are sad to announce that Lynley Steadman will be leaving Third staff as our Finance Accountant. We are currently searching for her replacement to start as soon as possible. Those interested in the position can view the Job Description and apply through Third's website at thirdrva.org/employment or contact Ed Satterfield (eds@thirdrva.org) or Alan Ware (alanw@thirdrva.org).

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.

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

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.

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.

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.

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

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 today at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. You'll meet a few people and learn about Third's vision and 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.