

WAITING FOR THE
BELOVED

————— WAITING FOR THE KING —————

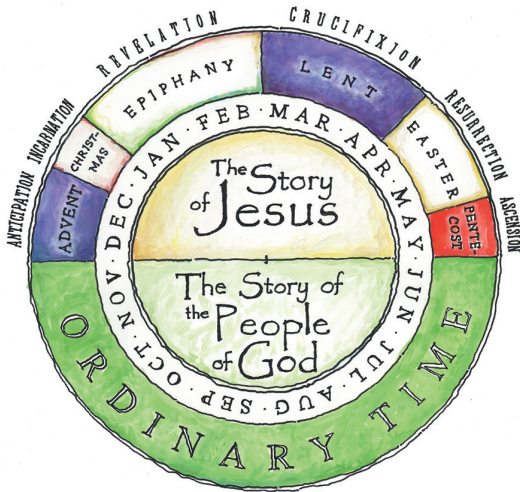
EPIPHANY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

“Jesus offers us baptism as the way to enter into communion with God, Father, Son, and Spirit, and to live our lives as God’s beloved children. Through baptism we say no to the world. We declare that we no longer want to remain children of the darkness but want to become children of the light, God’s children. We do not want to escape the world, but we want to live in it without belonging to it. That is what baptism enables us to do.”

HENRI NOUWEN

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.

In the season of Epiphany, we are focused on Jesus’ earthly life and mission to bring God’s kingdom to the whole world, reclaiming and renewing all things. Jesus’ life among the people of Israel reveals the complicated, beautiful nature of God, and in each aspect of Christ’s identity and calling we see glimpses of new life in Jesus.

Added to the white of Christmas (and Easter) are touches of many other colors, each one standing for one aspect of the kingdom of God revealed in Jesus: yellow and gold for the gifts of the Wise Men, signaling that Jesus came to claim people of every nation as his own; red and orange for the Holy Spirit that rested upon Christ to inaugurate his ministry; blue for the tassels of the rabbinical robe marking Jesus as our great teacher and High Priest; royal purple and pink for Jesus our King; green for new life and the role Jesus affirmed for ordinary people (the church) in the great mission of God; even black and brown to remind us of Jesus’ suffering and rejection. The many colors of Epiphany represent the whole, complex kingdom life that Christ brings into the world, and in this season we ask God to open our eyes to see him more and more in the multi-colored light of Jesus.

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

“Processional in C”
(Michael Helman)

Jeff Hummel

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

From Psalm 124:8

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: Who made heaven and earth.

Preparation for Worship “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
(10:00 only) (arr. Hopson)

Choir

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;

Join me in glad adoration!

Silent Preparation for Worship

† **Call to Worship**

From Psalm 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?

People: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber.

People: Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Leader: The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

**People: The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the
Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**

Prayer of Adoration

† **Song of Praise** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
“Called Me Higher”

#575 in the Hymnal
Music on page 4

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

CALLED ME HIGHER

Verses 1 & 2



1. I could just sit, I could just sit__ and wait__ for all__ your good-ness,
2. I could hold on, I could hold on to who I am and nev - er let you



hope to feel your pres - ence. And I could just stay,
change me from the in - side. I could be safe,



I could just stay right where I am and hope to feel you,
I could be safe here in your arms and nev - er leave home,



1. hope to feel some-thing a - gain.____ 2. nev-er let these walls down. But

Chorus



you have called me high - er,____ you have called me deep - er,____ and I'll



go where you will lead me, Lord. You have called me high - er,____

you have called me deep - er___ and I'll go where you will lead me,

Repeat verse 2 Bridge

Lord. Where you lead me. I will be yours, oh,

I will be yours for all my life.

I will be yours, oh, I will be yours for all my life so let your mer- cy_

I will be yours, oh, I will be yours for all my

Repeat Chorus

life so let your mer - cy light the path be - fore me, 'cause

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Call to Prayer

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

#903 in the Hymnal

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!**

Ordination and Installation of New Officers (11:15 only)

† 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 partners Jonathan and Mika Hicks with Pioneers in Japan as they work with the Pioneers Japan Launch servant team and serve other new missionaries as they learn about the Japanese language, culture and ministry.

Offertory

“Little Things With Great Love”

Worship Team

In the garden of our Savior, no flower grows unseen.
His kindness rains like water on every humble seed.
No simple act of mercy escapes his watchful eye.
For there is One who loves me; his hand is over mine.

In the kingdom of the heavens, no suff'ring is unknown;
Each tear that falls is holy, each breaking heart a throne.
There is a song of beauty on ev'ry weeping eye.
For there is One who loves me; his heart, it breaks with mine.

*This you have asked us: do little things with great love,
Little things with great love.*

At the table of our Savior, no mouth will go unfed;
His children in the shadows stream in and raise their heads.
Oh, give us ears to hear them and give us eyes that see,
For there is One who loves them. I am his hands and feet.
For there is One who loves them. I am his hands and feet.

† 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

Matthew 3:13–4:1

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”


¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.


People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People



You hear us call, you hear us call, Ab - ba, Fa - ther.



You hear us call, you hear us call, Ab - ba, Fa - ther.



Lord, have mer - cy, _____ Christ, have mer - cy; _____



Lord, have mer - cy, _____ Christ, have mer - cy.

Prayer Needs

For health: Erika Gouverneur, Bradley Crawford, Randy Raggio, Elaine Turner, Cheryl Fluckiger, Terry Jones, 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: Janice Brockenbrough (father, 12/19); 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: to experience the victory of Jesus' resurrection over all personal and institutional results of racism and racial inequity in this metropolitan city.

SENDING

† **Song of Commission** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #405 in the Hymnal
Verses 1, 2, 3, 6

† **Commission and Benediction** From Jude 1:20, 24–25

Leader: But you, beloved, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God as you await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life.

People: **Now to him who is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us unblemished in his glorious presence, with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all time, and now, and for all eternity!**

Postlude “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” Jeff Hummel
(11:15 service only) (Michael Burkhardt)

SERVICE NOTES

Today’s flowers are given in honor of our mission partners Jonathan and Mika Hicks.

NEWS & EVENTS

Renew: A Capital Campaign for Third Church – Launching Next Week

Join us next 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 this month

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 study meets on Thursdays evenings, January 9 – February 6, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Room 217 and focuses 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.

New Immigrant Tutoring session has started and we need more tutors!

The winter session of Immigrant and Refugee Tutoring is underway now through March 25, and we are in need of both regular and substitute tutors! There is a waiting list of almost 15 children who would love to have help for just one hour on Wednesday evenings. Don't underestimate the impact this has for both them and their families! Would you prayerfully consider this request? 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).

NEWS & EVENTS

Officer Nominations Open!

Each year, we ask our covenant partners to nominate individuals for the roles of Deacon, Elder, and Trustee. We look to our church family to identify and affirm the callings and giftings of our members. Please join us this month by nominating individuals for these offices. More information can be found on our website (thirdrva.org/nominate) or in the handouts found around the church.

Dessert and Dialogue: Mental Health Caregivers Support Group Third Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Multipurpose Room, Third Office Building

Beginning January 20, this group will be starting an 8-week program called "Sanctuary," designed to teach us about mental illness, social stigma, and how we can respond to those in need. All are welcome! For more information, contact Nan Clarke (clarke5@comcast.net) or Mary Damon (merryoh@gmail.com).

Meet our mission partners: Jonathan and Mika Hicks Sunday, January 19, 12:30 p.m., Room 101

Come out to this (free!) lunch to learn more about the developing ministry of Jonathan and Mika Hicks with Pioneers. The Hicks are relatively new to Japan and are immersing themselves in serving the local church while they pray towards a clearer vision for church planting. No RSVP needed for this lunch.

Women's Winter Tea – Tuesday, January 21, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Ladies of Third! You're invited for tea, cookies and time to reconnect with your friends after the holidays. Jimey Ames and Jeff Hummel will provide musical entertainment. This event is a gift from two of women's groups, led by Kathy Whitten and Emily Oostdyk. No cost, but please let us know you're coming (by January 19): email Kathy Whitten (kjsw44@gmail.com).

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. This week, Paul Brasler, MDiv, LCSW will be presenting on Trauma, Mental Health and Spirituality.

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 next Sunday, January 19, 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.