

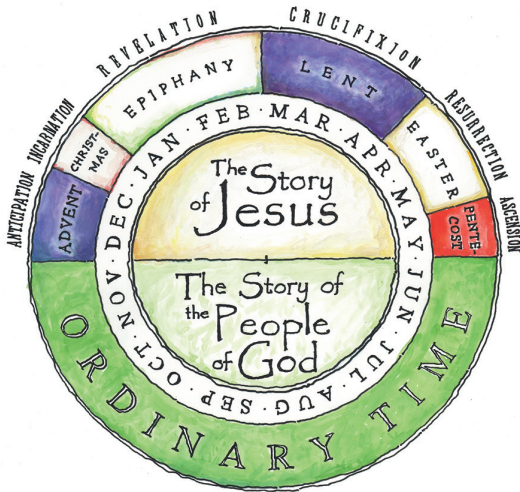
renewing generosity

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

“You can always give without loving,
but you can never love without giving.”

AMY CARMICHAEL

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 "Prelude and Fugue in C Major" Jeff Hummel
(Johann Krebs)

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 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

† **Song of Praise** "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #590 in the Hymnal
(verses 1–4)

"Il M'a Sauv "

Words on page 4

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

IL M'A SAUVÉ

(He Saved Me)

Leader: Il m'a sauvé! *(He saved me)*

People: Il m'a sauvé!

Leader: Il m'a sauvé!

People: Il m'a sauvé!
Il m'a sauvé, alléluia!
Il m'a sauvé, alléluia!

Leader: Il m'a béni! *(He blessed me)*

People: Il m'a béni!

Leader: Il m'a béni!

People: Il m'a béni!
Il m'a béni, alléluia!
Il m'a béni, alléluia!

Leader: Il m'a touché! *(He touched me)*

People: Il m'a touché!

Leader: Il m'a touché!

People: Il m'a touché!
Il m'a touché, alléluia!
Il m'a touché, alléluia!

Leader: Il m'a lavé! *(He washed me)*

People: Il m'a lavé!

Leader: Il m'a lavé!

People: Il m'a lavé!
Il m'a lavé, alléluia!
Il m'a lavé, alléluia!

Leader: Il m'a aimé! *(He loved me)*

People: Il m'a aimé!

Leader: Il m'a aimé!

People: Il m'a aimé!

Leader: Il m'a pardonné! *(He forgave me)*

People: Il m'a pardonné!

Leader: Il m'a pardonné!

People: Il m'a pardonné!

Leader: Il m'a sanctifié! *(He sanctified me)*

People: Il m'a sanctifié!

Leader: Il m'a sanctifié!

People: Il m'a sanctifié!

Leader: Il m'a sauvé! *(He saved me)*

People: Il m'a sauvé!

Leader: Il m'a sauvé!

People: Il m'a sauvé!

Leader: Il m'a sauvé!

People: Il m'a sauvé!

Leader: Il m'a sauvé!

People: Il m'a sauvé!
Il m'a sauvé, alléluia!
Il m'a sauvé, alléluia!

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us come with humble and repentant hearts to the Lord.

**People: We all, like sheep, have gone astray.
Each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Silent Confession

Words of Comfort

From Romans 8:31–39

Leader: Who then is the one who condemns?

**Everyone: No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—
is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

**Everyone: I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels
nor demons, neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us
from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

† 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 Jobs for Life, which is starting a new semester this week; for students and for those serving as champions, for those providing instruction and for those volunteering to prepare meals.

Offertory

"Establish the Work of Our Hands"

Worship Team

If you don't build it, we labor in vain.
Without your Spirit, we stand with no strength.
I know my time is passing away,
But the works of your hands are what will remain.
Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us.

*O Lord, establish the work of our hands,
O Lord, establish the work of our hands.*

Teach us to number the length of our days.
Pour out your power; we'll pour out your praise.
Teach us to run, to finish the race,
For only what's done in love will remain.
Let the favor of the Lord rest upon us.

*O Lord, establish the work of our hands,
O Lord, establish the work of our hands.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

THANKSGIVING

Offertory (11:15 service only)

“We Are Your Church, O Christ”
(Williams/Martin)

Choir

We are your church, O Christ; you are the sure foundation.
We are your church, O Christ, drawn to your wounded side.
We are your chosen bride.
We live in you alone and in your heart we find our home.
Grace is our miracle. We are your church, O Christ.

We are your church, O Christ, from every land and nation.
We are your church, O Christ. You are the truth and life,
God’s perfect sacrifice.
We trust in you alone and in your heart we find our home.
Grace is our miracle. We are your church, O Christ.

We are your church, O Christ. You are the Cornerstone.
We are your church, O Christ. You are the Living Word;
We trust in you alone.
Lord, you are faithful, our wondrous Savior.
Your name is holy and worthy of our praise.

We are your church, O Christ, one holy congregation.
We are your church, O Christ, united in our praise!
We are one in your embrace.

We live in you alone and in your heart we find our home.
Grace is our miracle. We are your church, O Christ!

† 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

2 Corinthians 8:1–9

¹ And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶ So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 9:6–11

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People

Refrain: ○ *Lord, establish the work of our hands,*
 ○ *Lord, establish the work of our hands.*

Prayer Needs

For health: Erika Gouverneur, Francis Steadman, Gretchen Gravely, Bradley Crawford, Randy Raggio, Elaine Turner, Cheryl Fluckiger, Terry Jones, Brad Bishop, Noel and Stephanie Brooks, David Hacker, Julie Walden, Christie Geraty, Milton Jones

For comfort for those who have lost loved ones: Alex Goulart (father, 2/9); Eileen Raynor (2/5); Pam Smith (1/26); Holly Roper, Janet Dew (father, husband, Jay, 1/23); Janice Brockenbrough (father, 12/19); Phil Marriott (brother, 12/14)

For Metro Richmond: We pray for the coming of God's realm in metropolitan Richmond: for redemption of the divisions, prejudices, pettiness, despair, and discrimination of the past.

SENDING

† **Song of Commission** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” #854 in the Hymnal

† **Commission and Benediction** From 2 Corinthians 9:8,15

Leader: God is able to bless you abundantly,
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work.

People: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Postlude “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” Jeff Hummel
(11:15 service only) (Michael Burkhardt)

SERVICE NOTES

Today’s flowers are given in honor of our mission partner Jobs For Life.

Today we celebrate the birth of Hannah Katherine Story, born on February 7 to parents Katherine and Nate.

renew

A Capital Campaign for Third Church

**Join us on Sunday, February 23
as we commit together as a community.**

We're mailing you a commitment card!

Since we came to Forest Avenue in 1956, we have been busy making, maturing and sending disciples. Third has always been marked by this movement of the Spirit—pursuing a deep faith that focuses outward to love and serve the world beyond our doors. However, over the past decades, our facilities have aged. They are increasingly burdened by wear and tear, under pressure from years of use without significant updates. This home of ours struggles to meet the needs of today's community.

If we want our home to continue to be a place where we can gather together as one body in mission and purpose through Jesus Christ, then our home needs renewal.

Pray for the Renew campaign:

- Pray that the Lord would help every person in our church family to be informed, inspired and engaged in this season together.
- Pray that God would grant us unity, clarity, and increasing love for one another.
- Pray that the Lord would stir up joyful generosity in our hearts.
- Pray that God would be glorified in the work and outcome of this campaign.

Weaving Together: We're writing our prayers of gratitude, praise, and hope on pieces of fabric, and weaving them through the looms that are throughout the church over the next few weeks. Stop by a loom as you see them, add your prayer, and help us display the stories of Third Church, woven together in joyful expectation of the work God will do.

For more info on the campaign, visit

renew.thirdrva.org

NEWS & EVENTS

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for this special worship service as we mark the beginning of Lent, the six-week season of repentance and reflection leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Childcare available with reservation to kathyw@thirdrva.org by February 23.

Last Call! Submit Officer Nominations by February 23

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. 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.

Young Adult Event: How to Steward a Budget

Tuesday, February 18, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Church Office (500 Forest Ave)

Does money make you anxious? Would you value practical budgeting advice? Third Church is a family, and families are excellent sources of wisdom. Designed for young professionals and couples, this event will discuss biblical principles of stewardship and provide an overview of budgets and mobile apps. Led by Craig Heah and Drew Cleveland. Dinner provided. Please RSVP to Drew Cleveland (drewc@thirdrva.org) by February 16.

Celebration of Service for Kathy White and Beth Marriott

Sunday, March 1, 12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Two of our wonderful longtime staff members are retiring! Beth Marriott and Kathy White have served our church lovingly and faithfully, and we thank God for their work among us. The church plans to honor and thank both of them at a celebratory reception in their honor. Reception will include a stand-up buffet lunch. Children are welcome. Please plan to celebrate with us!

Mental Health Education Group - Monthly Meetings on 3rd Monday of the Month

Our “Dessert and Dialogue” group about mental health support is now the Mental Health Education Group. Our next meeting is tomorrow, Monday, February 17 at 6:30 at 500 Forest. We meet every third Monday of each month. All are welcome!

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.

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.

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

Vault Room, 500 Forest Ave.

We are a diverse community seeking God's healing and wholeness for the brokenness in our lives and families through safe, authentic Christian relationships.

The Story of God. The Story of Us.

Fellowship Hall

There are no perfect marriages. There are only imperfect marriages through which God pours his perfect love and grace. This highly interactive class will provide a gospel-centered framework to help us experience the transformative power of God's grace in our marriages, and build communities where our marriages can flourish.

Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age

Room 213

Discover how spiritual conversations can be not something to dread, but a delight. This four-week class will unpack the three spiritual postures people tend to have toward the gospel and the six types of conversations that are most helpful for them based on their posture.

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.