

LO, HE COMES!

*An Advent Series
from the Book of Isaiah*

Sunday | December 11, 2016

THE STREAM

Third Sunday in Advent

"Hope is the cordial the people of God need to keep them going."

J. Alec Motyer

Welcome!
Bienvenido!
欢迎!
مرحباً

*We're glad you've chosen to worship at Third!
We look forward to meeting and getting to know you.*

*Third Church exists to spread the gospel and seek
the Shalom of metro Richmond and the world through
a movement of communities and congregations,
welcoming people of all cultures to the glory of Jesus Christ.*

Advent is a word that means “coming” or “arrival.” Advent is a four-week period in which the church looks back to remember the fulfilled promises of Jesus’ first coming, and looks forward to his promise to come again. Just as John the Baptist told the Jewish people to prepare for the Lord’s coming, we gather to encourage each other to be ready for his coming again. The purple color of Advent is the color of royalty, reminding us of the coming King.

Sanctuary Decorations

The purple Advent banners and other decorations now adorning our Sanctuary are the first installment of a year-long effort to use colors and textures to enrich our space and experience of worship, but also to serve as visual clues that, as Christians, we “tell time differently” with a calendar shaped by the story of God’s works of salvation and renewal. Tied closely with our Advent sermon series imagery, banners made from ribbons remind us of the “broken beauty” of the Kingdom as Isaiah saw it and we see it now, too: the way we can rejoice in the signs of new creation while acknowledging that many signs of hope still seem fractured, dim, and obscured by the present world.

We’ll continue to use that motif (and construction technique) for the next several seasons, changing from Advent purple to Christmas white and gold before our services on Christmas Eve. At that time, we’ll also replace the dry, brown wreath and window decorations with the hopeful and familiar evergreen ones, including a “Chrismon” tree that represents the many names and symbols for Jesus. Those will stay through Epiphany in mid-January.

All this is the work of a multi-generational team of people ages 6 to 65, and if you’re interested in being part of that effort, or would just like more information, please contact Mark Sprinkle at marks@thirdrva.org.

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

Overture from "Messiah"
(G. F. Handel)

Jeff Hummel

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand,
God within his temple dwelleth, our full homage to demand.

Let's quiet our hearts in silent preparation for worship.

Call to Worship

From Isaiah 2, 11 and 40

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Advent means coming.

**People: We are preparing ourselves for the days
when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.**

Leader: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

**People: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard with the goat,**

Leader: The calf and the lion and the yearling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

**People: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill
be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the
rough places a plain.**

Leader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it
together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Prayer of Adoration

† **Songs of Praise** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #135 in the Hymnal
 "Come Light Our Hearts"
 (See music on page 7)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS



For you, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait,



for you, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.



Tru - ly our hope is in you, tru - ly our hope is in you.



O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, your ra - diance
O Joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in you we



shines on all who look to you in the
find more than e - nough. We come as we



dark; Em - man - u - el, come, come light our hearts.
are; O heal and re - store, come light our hearts.

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

CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Song of Confession

**Everyone: O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell yhy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave.**

Silent Confession

Words of Comfort

Isaiah 40:1-2

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.
You are forgiven and free.

People: Thanks be to God!

Greeting of Peace

THANKSGIVING

We respond to God's word.

Our Offerings

Pray for Alan and Jennifer deCerff with International Training Partners, training missionaries to work effectively in cross-cultural settings in Africa.

Offertory

"Songs of Hope and Joy"

Sanctuary Choir

8:45 and 11:15 a.m. services

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Lord of the nations, King of all creation,
"God with us," Emmanuel.
Lord, you are holy; Lord, you are worthy.
Come to our world with us to dwell.

Lord of the nations, Lord of creation,
Come now and set your people free. Lord Jesus, come!

Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Offertory

"God With Us"

10:00 a.m. service

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.

Chorus

Our Deliverer, you are Savior.
In your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything, 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, Lord.

Words and Music: Jason Ingram & Leslie Jordan
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Doxology

Please stand as we sing to the Lord.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; raise 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.

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸ And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹ No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰ and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Stream
+ Rick Hutton +

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

RESPONDING

We respond to God's word.

Song of Response

"Veiled in Darkness Judah Lay"



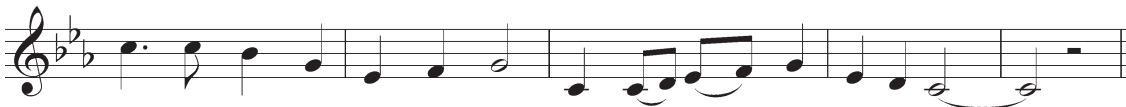
1. Veiled in__ dark-ness Ju - dah lay, wait-ing for the prom-ised day,
2. Still the_ earth in dark-ness lies. Up from death's dark vale__ a - rise
3. Light of__ light, we hum-bly pray, shine up - on thy world__ to-day;



while a - cross the shad-owy night streamed a__ flood of glor-ious light,
voic-es__ of__ a world in grief, prayers of__ men who seek re - lief.
break the_ gloom of our dark night, fill our_souls with love and light,



Heav'n-ly voic - es chant-ing_ then, "Peace on earth, good will to__ men;"
Now the dark-ness pierce a - gain, "Peace on earth, good will to__ men;"
send thy bless-ed word a - gain, "Peace on earth, good will to__ men."



Heav'n-ly voi - ces chan-ting then, "Peace on__ earth, good will to men."__
Now the dark-ness pierce a - gain, "Peace on__ earth, good will to men."__
Send thy bless-ed word a - gain, "Peace on__ earth, good will to men."__

Lyrics: Douglas L. Rights; 1915melody: "Aberystwyth," by Joseph Parry, 1879;
Arrangement by Isaac Wardell and Mason Neely

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus,
you are the spring in the desert and the flower in the wilderness.
Renew our lives and ground our hope in you.
Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,
make us into people who offer your refreshing streams of life to the world,
sharing your good news of hope through word and deed.
Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Come, Father of mercy,
bring comfort to all those who are full of sorrow and sighing,
and use us to extend your comfort to others this week.
Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly 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

Corrine Boyd, Loma Shafer, Missy Deregibus, Jack Schilthuis, Katie Payne, Allen Lawrence, Jerry Ramsey, Betty Cox, Charles Ellison, Dru Fitch, Mark Koontz, Margaret Leith, Dabney Harvey, Lou Hanscom, Carol Holt

For Comfort

Deaths – Joseph Hall (wife, Perrin Thompson Hall, 11/25), Bob Horne, Camille Foster and Emily Henley (mother and grandmother, 11/21), Art Wood (mother, 11/19), Elizabeth Barila (mother, 11/7), Jane Mims (mother, 10/31), Percy Strickland (father, 10/24), Patrick L. Wallace (father, 10/16), Dania Luby (father, 10/8), Wade Perkins, Sally Tate, Emily Schindler (father, grandfather, 9/25)

For Metro Richmond

We pray for the families of metropolitan Richmond: for persons who are lonely or have no family; for persons who are estranged from their families; for persons who are grieving the loss of a loved one and for all who need to feel the love of God.

For Our Nation and the World – The Republic of Georgia

Georgia is an ancient Christian nation which is located at the crossroads between Eastern Europe and Asia and has often been caught between the tensions of warring groups. Georgia declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. At present it sits uneasily between the Western NATO coalition forces and Russia's aspirations for regional influence. In 2008 a war broke out briefly in which Russian troops moved into Abkhazia and South Ossetia, two regions that Georgia considers to be a part of its territory but which asserted independence.

- Pray for peace and stability, for a strengthened economy as many people are unemployed. Pray for wisdom for the nation's leaders as they seek to chart their own course between the West and Russia.
- Pray for the believers of the Georgian Eastern Orthodox Church, that their faith in Christ would be renewed. More than 80% of Georgians identify as Orthodox.
- Pray for the leaders of the Orthodox Church. Their Patriarch, Ilya II, is the most trusted leader in the nation. He is 83 years old and is weak but continues to give spiritual leadership.

Missionary Prayer and Care groups meet monthly to pray for our mission partners in Europe, Asia and the Muslim world. Contact Carolyn Oakley (cdoakley1@gmail.com/937-6564) to learn more.

SENDING

God sends us into the world as his witnesses.

† Song of Commission

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendour"



1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dour,
2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
all for love's sake be - cam - est man;
Sa - vior and King, we wor - ship thee.



thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwel - ling,



sap - phire paved courts for a sta - ble floor.
Heav'n-wards by Thine e - ter - nal plan.
make us what Thou wouldst have us be.

after verse 3 go to refrain

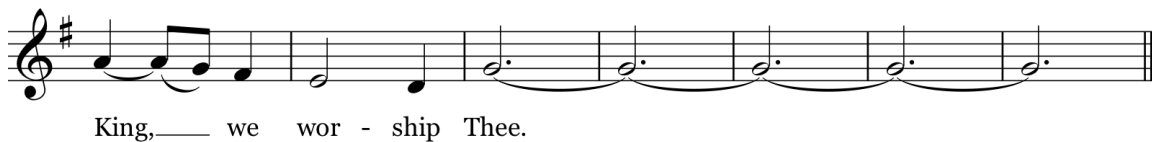
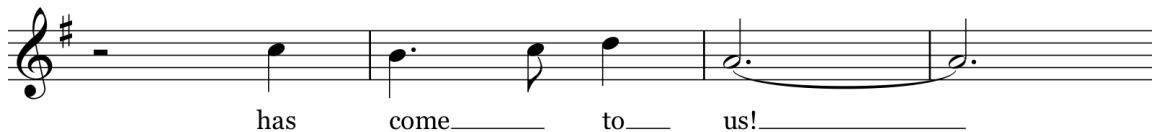


Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dour,
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
all for love's sake be - cam - est man.

2 Refrain



† **Commission**

From 1 Timothy 4:10

Leader: We labor and strive because we have put our hope in the living God who is the savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

Everyone: Our hope is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

† **Benediction**

Postlude

11:15 a.m. service

"People, Look East"
(Kristina Langlois)

Jeff Hummel

If you would like prayer for any reason, two elders are available at the front of the Sanctuary (by the lectern) after each service. We invite you to come forward for any prayer needs you may have.

SERVICE NOTES

Today's flowers are given in honor of our missionary partners Alan and Jennifer deCerff with International Training Partners. They train missionaries to work effectively in cross-cultural settings in Africa.

Today's liturgists: Beth Nichols, Becca Payne

The Gift of the Kingdom

2016 Stewardship Season

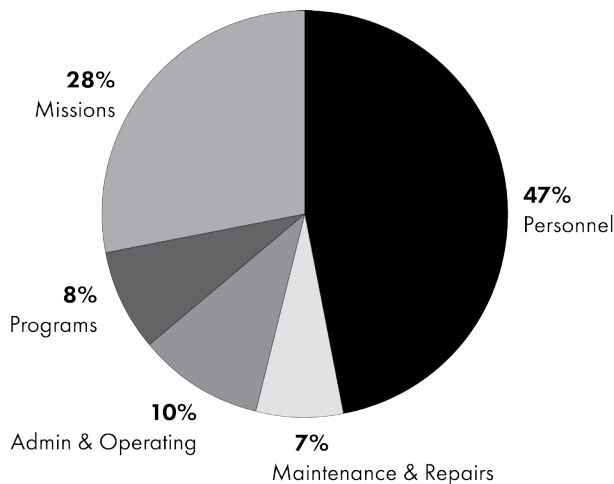
"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom." Luke 12:32

We believe the local church is one of God's great vessels of hope for the world. Through the local church, the gospel is proclaimed, community is formed, individuals grow, and the Kingdom is embodied.

To that end, every year we look at what it will cost us in the coming year to live as the particular local church God has called us to be. The staff and elders have carefully projected our budget for the coming year, and now in this season we come together to express our commitment of faith in pledging our financial resources to God through the work of this local church. Our pledges help us determine the accuracy of the budget and ensure our financial commitments to our 75+ mission partners.

If you would still like to make a commitment to Third for the new year, we welcome you to use the cards in the pews and drop them in the offering plate or return them to the church office. As we make our commitments, we pray for the Spirit and power of God to use our gifts to bring a harvest for his Kingdom. "Since you excel in so many ways — in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm and your love from us — I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NLT).

2017 Projected Budget: \$3,291,024



ADVENT SEASON AT THIRD CHURCH

The Original Christmas Story: An Advent Class

Sundays, December 11, 18, 10:00 a.m., Room 217

Join us for this special class that will tell the Advent story in an interactive way, as if it were written for a play production. Follow this cast of characters through the Old Testament prophecies and through the story of Jesus' birth.

A Celebration of Carols—Dinner and Concert: Wednesday, December 14

Dinner: 5:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall | Music: 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

We'll begin the evening with a Christmas meal together in the Fellowship Hall. Then, in the Sanctuary, our children's choir, Sanctuary Choir, and orchestra will present "A Celebration of Carols," music for the entire family, perfect for the Advent season.

RSVP required for dinner: thirdrva.org/events.

Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

4:00 p.m. – Family-friendly service in the Fellowship Hall

6:30 and 8:30 p.m. – Candlelight services in the Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. – Candlelight and Communion service in the Sanctuary

*Childcare available for infants and toddlers during the 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. services.

Christmas Morning: Sunday, December 25

Join us for one service on Christmas morning at 11:15 a.m. in our Sanctuary to celebrate the newborn King! Dress casually. *Childcare available for infants and toddlers.

NEWS & EVENTS

Welcome Coffee – Sunday, December 18, 9:45 a.m., Parlor

If you're new to Third, come to this monthly gathering to meet a few people and learn about Third's vision, what we believe and how to get involved. Questions? Contact Beth Nichols: bethn@thirdrva.org.

End of Year Contributions – Heads Up!

Any end of year contributions must be in to our office or postmarked by December 31. For any questions, please contact Lynley Steadman at lynleys@thirdrva.org or 282-4645.

New Year Men's Dinner – Tuesday, January 3, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Join us as our friend Tommy Thompson shares with us at our annual New Year Men's Dinner. Dinner will be provided by Annhorner Truitt, and all first-timers and guests are free. Otherwise, cost for dinner is \$5. Learn more: thirdrva.org/events.

Dinner 8's - Kicking Off in the New Year!

Want to meet more folks at Third over a good meal? Sign up for Dinner 8's. You'll be placed in a supper group that meets monthly from January through April. New groups are forming now. Sign up at thirdrva.org/events. Questions? Contact Allene Brown: allenedbrown@gmail.com or 441-1668.

New Third Church Sermons Podcast!

If you have subscribed to our sermons podcast in the past, you may have noticed a disturbance in your feed! We're actually migrating our sermons to a new podcast that's compatible with our updated technology that you will now have to subscribe to. To find the new podcast, go to thirdrva.org/itunes or search the iTunes store for Third Church, and select the podcast with our gold logo. Questions? Contact Becca Payne at beccap@thirdrva.org.

Come By the Children's Library for Books on Advent!

The Children's Library is the place to stop at Third today and every Sunday. Look at the many Christmas books and videos on display and on the red cart and find something special to check out to help your family celebrate this special time of Advent.

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Join us for our adult Sunday morning discipleship classes **during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour.**

For more information on the classes below, visit: thirdrva.org/classes-and-fellowship, or pick up a copy of the **Fall 2016 Brochure for Community, Discipleship and Mission.** Questions? Contact Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org).

**Can We Talk:
How Does an Ancient Book
Guide Modern Life?**

Fellowship Hall

A Study of Hebrews

Room 101

**The Original Christmas Story:
An Advent Class**

Room 217

Marriage Fellowship

Room 215

Sermon Chat

Fellowship Hall

**Forgiving and Reconciling:
Bridges to Wholeness and Hope**

500 Forest Avenue, Room 109

**Did Our Hearts Not Burn Within Us?
A Study of Luke**

Room 213

Orphans and the Gospel

Room 207

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - SUNDAY MORNING

DURING THE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE:

All of our children's Sunday morning discipleship classes take place during the 10:00 a.m. worship hour.

Visit thirdrva.org/family-ministry-sunday-morning or pick up a copy of the **Fall 2016 Brochure for Community, Discipleship and Mission** for information on where the classes will be.

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.

A Wiggle Room is available if you prefer to have your child with you but he or she is a little too active or noisy to be in the service. You'll be able to watch the service via streaming. The room is located near the Student Ministry area in Room 132.

Please let us know if we can help familiarize you with all that is available at Third for your children. Contact Kathy White (kathyw@thirdrva.org) or Tracie Meadows (traciem@thirdrva.org).

STUDENT MINISTRY

Sunday morning student ministry

Join us for food, solid teaching, and great people as we grow together in God's word.

600 Forest Avenue, Student Ministry Area

10:00-11:00 a.m. for all students in 7th-12th grade.

Sunday evening student ministry

Join us from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Contact Rick (rickh@thirdrva.org) or Andrea (andreaw@thirdrva.org).

THIS WEEK AT THIRD

Sunday, December 11

8:45, 10:00, 11:15 a.m. Worship services – Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Cards and Care – Room 207

Monday, December 12

10:00 a.m. People of Faith Bible study – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

7:00 p.m. Mission Committee – Upstairs Conference Room, 500 Forest Avenue

7:00 p.m. Trustee meeting – Room 101

Tuesday, December 13

10:00 a.m. Sara's Circle of Friends – Parlor

6:15 p.m. Session dinner – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee meeting – Parlor

Wednesday, December 14

5:45 p.m. Christmas dinner – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Christmas concert – Sanctuary

Thursday, December 15

7:00 p.m. Worship team rehearsal – Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Needle's Eye Young Professionals Grp. – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

Friday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Europe missionary prayer and care meeting – at Carolyn Oakley's home,
2710 Old Point Drive, 23233, 937-6564

10:00 a.m. Mommy and Me play groups – Rooms 102, 103, 109, Playground

12:00 p.m. Day by Dayers – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

6:00 p.m. Healing Prayer rooms – Parlor, Room 101, 103

8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Saturday – High School Lock-In – Fellowship Hall, Student ministry area

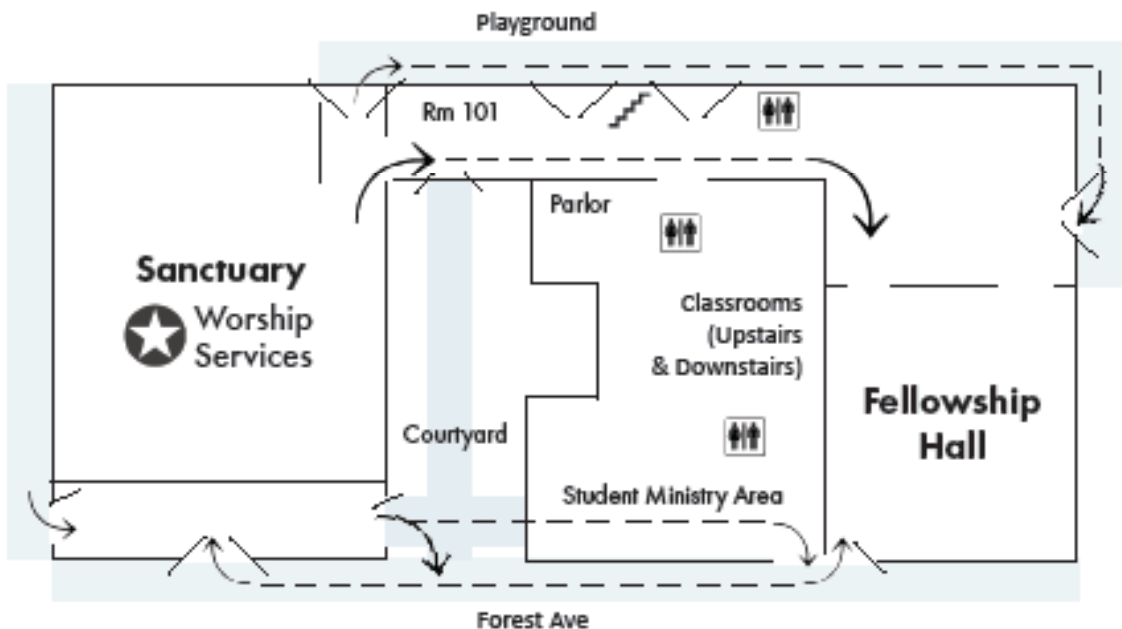
LEARN MORE ABOUT THIRD

Welcome to Third! We're so glad you're here. We'd love to get to know you and for you to learn more about our community. We have a couple opportunities for you to connect with us and help you find out more about Third.

- **Sign up for emails:** thirdrva.org/signup
- **Pick up Third Press:** Our monthly newsletter can be found around the church.
- **Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram:** @thirdrva
- **Join us for the next Welcome Coffee.** Start here to learn more about Third.
Sunday, December 18, 9:45 a.m. in the Parlor.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT THIRD

If you need help or have any questions at any point on a Sunday morning, look for individuals wearing carnations or yellow name badges. They're here to help answer questions, find you seats, and guide you around our building.



Third Church
804-282-4645
500 Forest Ave.
Richmond, VA 23229
www.thirdrva.org



A Covenant Order
of Evangelical Presbyterians