

**DWELL:**  
AN ADVENT *and* CHRISTMAS  
SERIES

Sunday | December 31, 2017

**FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH**  
Christmastide

"Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die;  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth."

Charles Wesley







*Called together for the renewal of all things  
through Jesus Christ.*

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.*

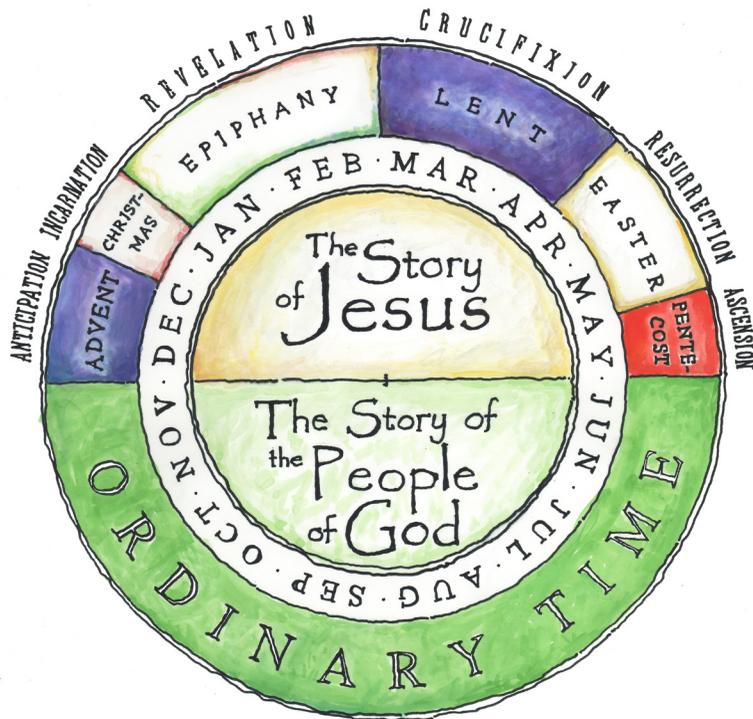
## Sanctuary Decorations

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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.

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 of the new and everlasting life found in Christ.

Adorning the sanctuary is the work of a multi-generational team of people from 6 to 65, and if you’re interested in being part of that effort, or would just like more information, please contact Holly Smith.



# GATHERING

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

## **Prelude**

**8:45 a.m.**

**10:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

Jeff Hummel

Churchestra

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Preparation for Worship**

From Psalm 51:15

Leader:   ○ Lord, open our lips,

**People: And our mouths will declare your praise.**

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

### **† Call to Worship**

From Isaiah 9:2

Leader:   The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light  
has dawned.**

Leader:   Jesus Christ is our life and light.

In his name and in his power, let us worship our King!

## **Prayer of Adoration**

### **† Songs of Praise**

"Joy to the World!"

#146 in the Hymnal

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

#170 in the Hymnal

(See music on following pages)

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

# JOY TO THE WORLD!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

## IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heaven's all gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
When, with the ever circling years, shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

# CONFESSING

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*God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.*

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Everyone:** Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Words of Comfort**

Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?  
Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.  
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone; the new life has begun!  
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

**People: Amen!**

## **† 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**

Pray for Carolyn Rennie and her ministry of care and discipleship in Romania. Pray for her time here throughout this holiday season.

## **Offertory**

**8:45 a.m.**

**10:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

Worship Team  
Churchestra

## **† Doxology**

*Please stand as we sing to the Lord.*

**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 Readings**

John 1:14, 16-17

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**



## RESPONDING

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*We respond to God's word.*

### **Prayers of the People**

Leader: We praise you, gracious God, for your light and love and life. We thank you for sending us your one and only Son. We praise you that the Word made flesh is full of grace and truth.

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: O Living Word, speak to our hearts about your amazing grace. Teach us that your lovingkindness is greater than our fears and stronger than death. May we reflect this love to family and friends, to neighbors and strangers.

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Spirit of Christ, prepare us to enter a new year. Help us to leave behind that which binds us. Free us to follow you with thanksgiving and joy. Empower us to show the world your grace and your faithfulness.

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

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### **For Health**

Sean Sanderson, Katie Bishop, Rick Hendrickson, JoeAnn Harlow, Dru Fitch, James Hildebrand, Frances Eichost, Dot Jones, Margaret Leith, Larry Dupree, Nick Jeffer, Kaye Phillips, Elaine Turner, Judy Clough, Gina Maio, Brad Bishop, Greyson Tate, Julie Walden, Amy Boyd, Jerry Ramsey, Charles Ellison, Lou Hanscom

### **For Comfort for those who have lost loved ones**

Andy Burgess (wife Brenda, 12/19), Sue Kimball (brother, 12/16), Frank Wilson and Lynley Steadman (brother, uncle, 12/1), Annhorner Truitt (brother, 11/24), Lauralee Allen (father, 11/13), Mark Williams (father), Greg Fischer (brother, 10/27), Dave Beckmann (father, 10/11), Eli Cox (mother, 10/8), Martha Schilthuis (husband Jack, 10/4), Rick Darby (stepmother, 10/2), Amy Whitaker (mother, 10/1)

### **For Metro Richmond**

We pray to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: for racial reconciliation and healing in metropolitan Richmond; for an end to all racial prejudice and discrimination, beginning with what is in our own hearts.

# SENDING

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*God sends us into the world as his witnesses.*

## † **Song of Commission**

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

#78 in the Hymnal

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its years away,  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home!

† **Commission**

From Romans 8:38-39

Leader: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

† **Benediction**

**Postlude**  
**10:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

Churchestra

*SERVICE NOTES*

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**Today's flowers** are given in honor of our mission partner Carolyn Rennie and her ministry of care and discipleship in Romania. Pray for her time here throughout this holiday season.

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **The Grace of Giving: Faith Commitments**

As we remember God's grace this past year and the many years before, we look forward to this next year. Please be in prayer for the Lord's leading as to how you will support Third's ministry in 2018. In November, we as a church family made our financial commitments to the church for the year to come. Pray with us, and if you're a part of this church family, join us in celebrating God's great grace as we make our faith commitments for 2018. You can find these cards in the pews, and can drop them in the offering plate or at our church office.

### **Men's New Year's Dinner – Tuesday, January 2, 6:30 p.m.**

Join us as our friend Tommy Thompson shares with us at our annual Men's New Year's Dinner. We'll have a time for dinner, Tommy's message, and just an opportunity for guys to meet and visit. Sign up (\$5) at: [thirdrva.org/events](http://thirdrva.org/events). Questions? Contact Tom Barila: [tomb@thirdrva.org](mailto:tomb@thirdrva.org).

### **Newcomers Class – January 14, 19-20**

Interested in learning more about Third or exploring membership? We'd love to get to know you and provide an opportunity for you to learn about Third's vision for worship, discipleship, community, serving and outreach at our Newcomers class, and at the end of the class, you'll have an opportunity to become a covenant partner of our church family. For more info and to sign up, visit: [thirdrva.org/newcomers](http://thirdrva.org/newcomers).

### **Meet our mission partner Carolyn Rennie – Sunday, January 7, 11:15 a.m.**

Please join us in the Parlor for a meet and greet with our mission partner, Carolyn Rennie from Romania. Light refreshments will be available.

## SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

**The Sunday morning Discipleship classes for adults will be on break Sunday, December 31. Join us in the new year for new opportunities to grow and study scripture together on Sunday mornings.**

Questions? Contact Tom Barila ([tomb@thirdrva.org](mailto:tomb@thirdrva.org)).

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**Sunday morning student ministry:** We'll be taking a break from our Sunday morning gatherings on December 31. Join us again on January 7 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the Student Ministry area of our building (on the first floor) for food, solid teaching, and great people as we grow together in God's word.

**Sunday evening student ministry:** We'll also be taking a break from our normal Sunday evening gatherings until the new year. Enjoy your holidays!

**Questions?** Contact Rick ([rickh@thirdrva.org](mailto:rickh@thirdrva.org)) or Andrea ([andreaw@thirdrva.org](mailto:andreaw@thirdrva.org)).

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - SUNDAY MORNING

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**For the holidays, we have some changes to the Children's Sunday School schedule this week:**

**Sunday morning, December 31:** We will have childcare for Kindergarten and younger during all three services. No Sunday school classes will meet! Children kindergarten and older can 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 across the courtyard 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](mailto:kathyw@thirdrva.org)) or Tracie Meadows ([traciem@thirdrva.org](mailto:traciem@thirdrva.org)).

## ***THIS WEEK AT THIRD***

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### **Sunday, December 31**

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

### **Monday, January 1 Church office closed**

### **Tuesday, January 2**

9:00 a.m. Kingdom Knitters – Parlor

9:30 a.m. "Nehemiah: A Heart That Can Break" study group – Room 213

6:00 p.m. Men's quarterly dinner – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Muslim World Missionary Prayer and Care group – meets at Laurie Chalifoux' home, 10801 Whitaker Woods Rd., Richmond, 23238, 543-0361

### **Wednesday, January 3**

6:30 p.m. Refresh: Young Women's Bible study – Parlor

### **Thursday, January 4**

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal – Choir Room

### **Friday, January 5**

1:00 p.m. Day by Dayers meeting – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Ave.

6:00 p.m. Healing Prayer group – Student Ministry area

6:00 p.m. Officers Retreat – Offsite

## JOIN US NEXT WEEK

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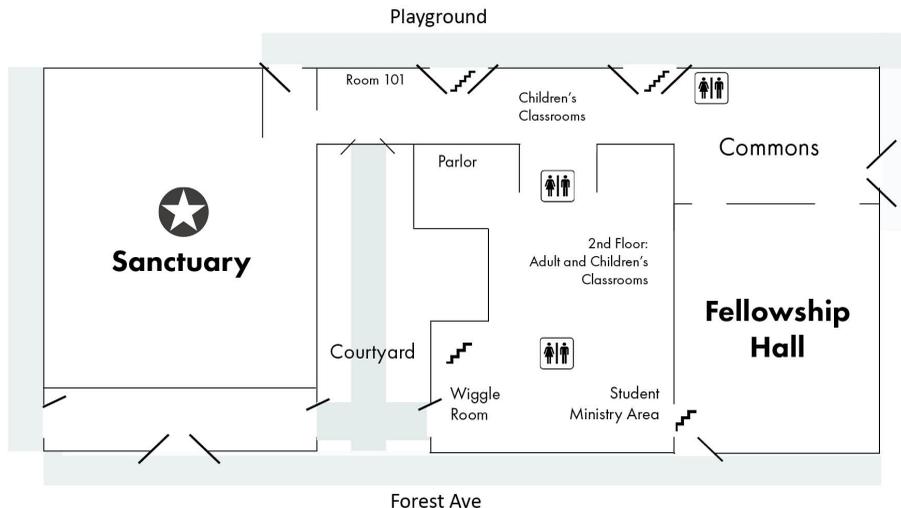
We'll return to our normal Sunday morning worship schedule this morning. Join us for worship at 8:45, 10:00 or 11:15 a.m. We'd love to get to know you and for you to learn more about our community. We have a couple opportunities for you to connect with us and help you find out more about Third.

- **Sign up for our ministry emails:** [thirdrva.org/signup](http://thirdrva.org/signup)
- **Pick up Third Press:** Our monthly newsletter can be found around the church.
- **Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram:** @thirdrva

## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT THIRD

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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  
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[www.thirdrva.org](http://www.thirdrva.org)



A Covenant Order  
of Evangelical Presbyterians