



LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

Modern Americans have little patience for anything but the present. Events of the past seem irrelevant and dated; while the future is unclear and speculative. Awash with endless products to consume, experiences to indulge, and cultural and political drama to scrutinize, we focus on the here and now.

For the Christian community, all our myopic focus on the present comes to a halt in Advent, the very beginning of the Christian year. Advent literally means “coming,” and the season calls us to slow down and meditate on the two comings of Jesus: one past, one future.

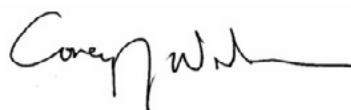
First, *we look back* to the first coming of Jesus in the Incarnation. In Advent, we imagine ourselves as the people of Israel, hoping and longing for the coming Messiah over many centuries.

Second, *we look forward* to the second coming of Jesus when he will return as Judge and King. We reflect on the fact that though the Messiah Jesus has already come and his Kingdom is advancing, he has not yet consummated

his Kingdom in fullness. The broken world still rages on, and yet we believe in and anticipate the renewal of all things.

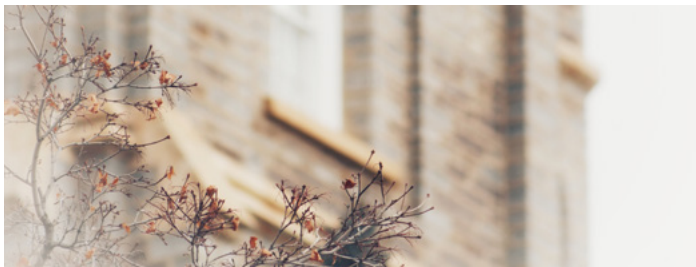
Looking back, looking forward. That’s what Advent is all about, and that’s what we’ll do together in the coming weeks. This year, we’ll do that through some familiar songs of Advent and Christmas that we may have never really reflected upon. We will have a fantastic new hymnal in our sanctuary beginning December 2, and throughout December we’ll sing some timeless Advent and Christmas hymns and discover what they teach us about the first and second comings of Jesus Christ.

As we head into this season, remember this: Jesus came and is coming, and this changes everything! Let heaven and nature sing!



COREY WIDMER

ADVENT GUIDES



This Advent, we are encouraging every person and every family at Third to engage with this season of anticipation. Maybe start some new habits or practice new rhythms to experience Advent in a meaningful way. Here's a few resources to get you started.

BEHOLD

An Advent Devotional From Frontier Fellowship

Our mission partner, Frontier Fellowship, has released a daily Advent devotional called *Behold*. This guide desires to recognize signs of God's Kingdom coming among the world's least-reached peoples and places. Daily entries by Frontier Fellowship staff and ministry friends, including Richard Haney and LJ Jaworski, reflect on the realities of God making all things new—inviting readers to look with prophetic imagination and see the world for what it will be when his Kingdom comes in all its fullness.

↓ GET THE GUIDE

Available around the church to pick up December 2 and at frontierfellowship.org/blog

COMMON RULE

Advent Edition

The Common Rule Advent Edition! is a set of daily and seasonal habits to practice during the Advent season of 2018. These habits will draw you into a season of celebrating the King who has come, and waiting for the King who will come again. This year's *Advent Edition!* is focused on themes of justice and reconciliation, and was created in partnership between Justin Earley (Third member and author of the upcoming book *The Common Rule*) and Arrabon, our mission partner that equips communities to engage in the work of reconciliation.

↓ GET THE GUIDE

thecommonrule.org/advent-edition

COMMON RULE CONVERSATIONS

For those of us who are adopting the Advent Common Rule, we'll hold two opportunities to process our experiences in community. It will be a chance to engage with what we're experiencing in our homes and workplaces, share insights, and ask questions.

When: December 9 and 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Room 213/215



LESSONS AND CAROLS

The service of Lessons and Carols tells the story of Jesus through scripture readings, visual arts, instrumental music and the singing of carols. Our musicians lead the service in the sanctuary, interweaving ancient and modern worship traditions. It is a great opportunity to begin the Advent season reflecting on scripture and praying for God's coming son. Read more about our Lessons and Carols service at: thirdrva.org/blog.

*Sunday, December 2, 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
Childcare available for kindergarten and younger.*



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

DECEMBER 24 — FIVE SERVICES

FELLOWSHIP HALL — 4:00 P.M.

A shorter service, particularly suitable for young children. We invite children to dress up as a character from the nativity!

SANCTUARY — 4:00 P.M.

SANCTUARY — 6:00 P.M.

SANCTUARY — 8:00 P.M.

SANCTUARY — 10:00 P.M.

This service includes Communion.

Though we wait through the month of December, we anticipate Christmas Eve when we will sing in joy together for the gift of the God-child come to us. Please join us this Christmas Eve for one of our five services.

Childcare available for 3 years old and younger during the 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. services. Our Wiggle Room will also be available during every service should you need to step out with your child.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 SERVICE CHANGES

DECEMBER 30 — TWO SERVICES

SANCTUARY — 9:00 A.M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL — 10:00 A.M.

Join us for an extended hour of fellowship and coffee in between services in the Fellowship Hall.

SANCTUARY — 11:00 A.M.

On Sunday morning, December 30, we are changing our schedule to accommodate for the many in our church family who will be traveling.

Sunday school will not meet, but childcare will be available for kindergarten and younger in both services.

GET TO KNOW THE STAFF OF THIRD CHURCH MISSION AND PASTORAL CARE



1. ED SATTERFIELD serves as Executive Pastor. His duties are wide-ranging, providing organizational leadership for the staff and ordained leaders. He works closely with the five Session Committees and the Deacons. Working with other staff leaders, he supports Parish Area Leadership Teams, the Men's Leadership Team, and the management of the church organization and operations. Ed also provides overall management in helping connect the work of staff, Parish ministry teams and other volunteers to care. If you are ever confused about who to talk with about some aspect of the church's life, reach out to: eds@thirdrva.org.

2. LJ JAWORSKI has been Third's Pastor of Missions for just over two years. Coming across the country from California where she completed study at Fuller Seminary and served several churches as Mission Director, she brings a wealth of experience and energy to Third and our Mission Partners. Her passion is mobilizing people for engagement in local and global mission. She would love to talk with you about being part of a growing Mission Team that includes multiple sub-teams: lj@thirdrva.org.

3. NAN CLARKE volunteers her time as Pastor for Care Ministry. She visits regularly with all our senior saints, helps coordinate special care for unique situations, and meets regularly with the Helping Hands Team that provides monthly visits and meals. She also meets with and mentors several younger women, teaches regularly, and is part of Third's preaching team. We are blessed to have such a gifted and experienced Pastor serving the congregation.

4. JOHN WHITE, in addition to directing worship ministry, now spends 40% of his time in pastoral care; his revised title now being Pastor of Worship and Pastoral Care. He coordinates all the staff visitation and works with Nan to ensure that not only all hospital visits are made, but that regular visits with homebound and others needing connection occur. He also coordinates the staff *Pastor of the Day* team. If you have a care or worship question, you can reach John at: johnw@thirdrva.org.

Get to know the rest of our staff: thirdrva.org/leadership-and-staff

As our congregation has grown, so has Third's staff. In our second installment of 'Get to Know The Third Staff,' we're highlighting the members of the Mission and Pastoral Care team and how they use their gifts to serve our growing church.

5. REBECCA HATTON is Third's longest serving staff member. She has worked in multiple capacities since the fall of 1999, now as Administrative Assistant for Mission Ministry. She helps coordinate mission communication and correspondence with our 85+ Mission Partners and supports LJ and the Mission Team. She also helps manage our data, particularly for visitors to Third. She has served Kenwood United Methodist Church as Organist and Choir Director for 20 years. Get in touch with Rebecca for anything related to missions: rebeccah@thirdrva.org.

6. STERLING LLOYD serves as Administrative Assistant for the Discipleship Team and the Deacons. She supports a total of six different staff members! She supports the Newcomers Class, Women's Ministry, Deacons, Jobs for Life and Financial Assistance Ministries, as well as managing our weekly prayer lists and Deacon visits. She also supports the Men's Ministry and helps maintain our database. Sterling is a member of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. If you have any questions about Care, registration for events, or would like to receive our public prayer list, contact Sterling: sterlingl@thirdrva.org.

2ND GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Each year Third Church's Family Ministry gathers our second grade students and their families for the Bible presentation and dinner. This event is one of our Faith Milestones, a marker on the spiritual journey of our children. We give God's Word to children in second grade as they are becoming confident and capable readers, and it is a perfect time for them to begin to explore and read Scripture with their families.

On October 21, we gave nineteen children their very own personalized Adventure Bible. It is our absolute joy to watch them open their Bibles, see their names beautifully written inside, and begin to look at Scripture passages. This event has become an anticipated marker for our students, and beginning in September they begin to ask when they will receive their Bible.



Please join us in praying for Third's second grade students and their families, that God's Word would begin to infuse every part of their lives, that they would become people who desire to read it and hide it deep in their hearts. And if you see one of our second graders, encourage them by asking to see their Bible! Learn more about Faith Milestones by visiting our website: thirdrva.org/faith-milestones



MISSION PARTNER FEATURE

URBAN HOPE



HELLO, THIRD FAMILY! Your support is helping us break the cycle of poverty right here in our beloved city of Richmond. Here are a few examples of what you're helping to make happen...

Carolyn Loftin, our Director of Housing and Family Services, is not only the beating heart of Urban Hope; she also is a phenomenal single mother of five, and one of our tenants. Because of your generosity, not only does she have an affordable house (that she loves), she is now working full time and is on track to receive a raise that will bring her up to a competitive and honoring level of pay. Her children are thriving and so is she, as a vibrant member of her community.

Another tenant says, "Urban Hope has provided my family and me the opportunity to become self-sufficient and do it correctly. UH has provided the resources needed to fulfill the task and they also assist in any and every way possible. I thank Urban Hope for having hope and faith in me when no one else did. My family and I are extremely grateful for all that they do!"

One couple, with four daughters, is in our home ownership track and preparing to purchase their house and build wealth for their family. The mother writes, "As active participants in Urban Hope, our family has been given an opportunity to remain in the community and become successful future homeowners. We are forever grateful for the opportunity that this amazing nonprofit organization has given our family."

In case you're not familiar with how we work, Urban Hope uses investor funds to acquire and renovate houses for rental or sale to those making as little as 25% of the Area Median Income—which in Richmond for 2018 is \$20,800 for a family of four. In addition, our operations budget is entirely funded by private contributions, and Third Church is our biggest supporter—so thank you!



HOW CAN YOU JOIN IN?

MENTOR! We have a remarkable group of tenants and clients who are interested in having someone help with basic budgeting and financial decisions. This is an easy way to be involved, as it's a once-a-month commitment.

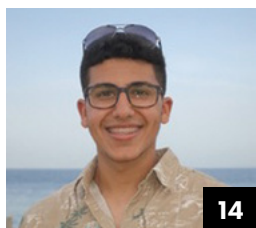
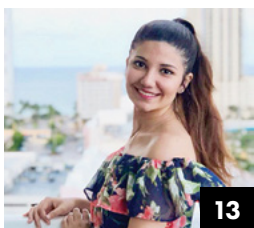
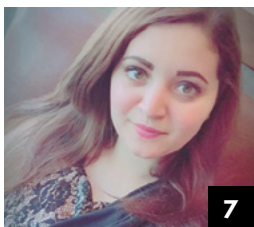
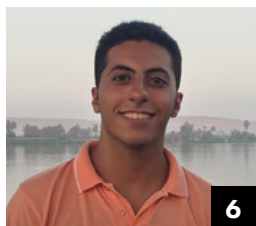
VOLUNTEER! There are many ways to help, including envelope stuffing, landscape beautification, and basic maintenance. We are always looking for handy people who would like to help us keep our costs low!

PRAY! We always need God's wisdom and provision, and protection and blessing for our clients and tenants.

Contact sarah@urbanhoperva.org for more information, or check out our website at urbanhoperva.org!



MEET OUR URBANA TEAM



Urbana is a major Christian student missions conference sponsored by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship that happens every three years. The event is designed to inform students about both global and specific issues faced by missionaries. The conference also encourages students to explore the biblical mandate for cross-cultural missions and invites them to participate in this call.



Each Urbana, lasting five days at the end of December, culminates with communion on New Year's Eve. In addition to the main speakers, participants are offered a choice of dozens of seminars offered throughout the week, relating to specific topics within the general theme of the university and international missions. Worship is also a major highlight of the conference and special attention is paid to incorporating diverse worship styles, including songs in foreign languages.

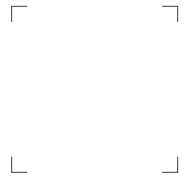
The first Urbana was held in 1946 in Toronto. Since then, it has moved from the University of Illinois where it was housed for over 50 years, to St. Louis, Missouri, to accommodate the thousands of attendees.

Our team is made up of students and mission enthusiasts from the Christian Arabic Church and Third Church. Please pray for us as we join with 16,000 college students to learn more about God's heart for the world and the Global Church!

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. SCOTT ARMISTEAD | 7. YOUSTINA GEORGI |
| 2. JOANN ARMISTEAD | 8. LJ JAWORSKI |
| 3. NOAH ARMISTEAD | 9. DAVIS MAIO |
| 4. SETH ARMISTEAD | 10. MARY DRYDEN MAIO |
| 5. ANDY BURGESS | 11. BISOLA OLOWE |
| 6. MARK FARAG | 12. STEVEN REZK |



THIRD CHURCH
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(804) 282-4645



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

OUR MINISTRY STAFF

REV. COREY WIDMER
Lead Pastor

REV. ED SATTERFIELD
Executive Pastor

REV. DEREK MONDEAU
Pastor of Discipleship & Parish Ministry

REV. LAURIE JAWORSKI
Mission Pastor

REV. RICK HUTTON
Associate Pastor for Students (grades 6–12)

ANDREA WOIE
Student Ministry Associate

ALAN WARE
Director of Finance & Administration

TRACIE MEADOWS
Associate Dir. of Family Ministry

KATHY WHITE
Associate Dir. of Family Ministry

DR. JOHN WHITE
Pastor for Worship and Pastoral Care

KIM TAULBEE
Associate Music Director

BETH NICHOLS
Director of Connection Ministries

BECCA PAYNE
Director of Communications

ALEX SAWYER
Technical Director

TIM LATHAM
Director of Young Adult Ministries

REV. RICHARD HANEY
Theologian and Missiologist in Residence

REV. NAN CLARKE
Pastor for Care Ministries

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR JANUARY: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7. SUBMIT TO: BECCAP@THIRDVA.ORG