

Welcome, visitors!

We're glad you've chosen to worship at Third! Be sure to write your contact information (phone and/or email) on the pads that will be passed this morning so that we can get in touch with you to let you know more about life at Third. After the service, you will find information on Third in the entry foyer and in the Steeple Corridor under the display TVs. We look forward to meeting and getting to know you.

If you're not reading *The Loop*, you're not in the loop. Pick up The Loop for this week's announcements and calendar. You'll find it at exits around the building. You can also read The Loop online at www.ThirdRVA.org.

Morning Prayer

Health Needs

Joe Keller, Waylon Lloyd, Barbara Satterfield, Mary Cox, James Hacker, Nancy Cunningham

Deaths

Linda Allen (father), Debi Berg (mother), Julia Durham (mother), Nikki Lloyd (grandmother), Mary Caudill (mother), Laurie Chalifoux (husband, Mike), Art Wood (father), Jean Johnson (husband, Roy), Allene Brown (mother), Deb Cox (husband, Dave), Ann Green (husband, Fran)

During Noisy Offering, which is for all children, we invite those ages 4 years old through kindergarten to come forward to be escorted to Room 223 for a lesson. They can be picked up there either after the service or after the discipleship hour. Parents of children participating in this pull-out should check in and receive nametags in the Parlor (Room 100) before the service.

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. The service is streamed into Room 124 so you can hear the sermon while you nurse or play with your baby/toddler. Room 124 is located in the connecting hall across from the Toddler Room 105 leading to the Student Ministry area.

Are you going to be away any Sunday this month? You can now view our worship services (9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary) online at www.thirdrva.org/ watch-live. Or, find the link on the Welcome/This Sunday page. You can view the services through UStream (our vendor) on any device: smartphone, tablet, laptop/desktop.

December 21, 2014

9:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

“Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’ Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father?”’”
John 14:8-9

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”
Hebrews 1:3

Missionary Prayer Request

Pray for Steve Quakenbush with Wycliffe as he supervises the work of global Bible translation, now based in the Philippines.

MEDITATION

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”
John 1:12-13

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 9:1-2

“I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.”

OPENING PRAYER

***SONGS OF PRAISE** #198 “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”
#167 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering Sentence: “On coming to the house, they [the Magi] saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.”
Matthew 2:11

OFFERTORY “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

“If Jesus is the revelation of the heart of God, it’s very good news about the nature of God.”

Richard Rohr,
Everything Belongs

“The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God’s [back] fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon.”

Jan L. Richardson,
*Night Visions:
Searching the Shadows
of Advent and
Christmas*

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-3, 14-18 (scripture inside)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE “Can We Really Know God?” Steve Hartman

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Nicene Creed (Hymnal #15)

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

***SONG OF COMMISSION** “Song of Service” (see insert)

***BENEDICTION**

Today’s Bible Readings

John 1:1-3, 14-18

¹ “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. . . . ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”

¹⁶ From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ **No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.**

The fourth Advent Candle is traditionally called the Angel candle. Throughout scripture, angels came to proclaim important events. The angels proclaimed Christ’s birth with joy.

Today’s Service Leaders: Rick Hutton, Beth Nichols, Brannon Howle, Katy Hottinger, Tracie Meadows, Robin Ore, John White, Mark Koontz, Kim Taulbee, Jerry Stout, Luke Swygard

Noisy Offering Helpers: Lily Howle and Archer Parnell