



THE GOSPEL OF

LUKE

THE COMING
OF THE KING

Sunday | December 6, 2015

PREPARING FOR THE KING
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Oh pour your darkness and your brightness
over all our solemn valleys,
You skies: and travel like the gentle Virgin,
Toward the planets' stately setting."

Thomas Merton

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.*

GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

Trumpet Tune on “Joy to the World” – Jeff Hummel
(Michael Helman)

Welcome and Announcements

Preparation

Leader: Let’s prepare our hearts to worship the living God, for “The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him” (Habakkuk 2:20).

People: Amen.

A period of silence is kept.

† Call to Worship

From Isaiah 42:16

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

Everyone: We look in hope for the coming light of Christ.

Leader: I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by the paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do and I will not forsake them.

Everyone: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation!

† Opening Prayer

† Song of Praise

“Hands to the Heavens”
(See music on following page.)

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

HANDS TO THE HEAVENS

VERSE



We are__ Your church__
We lift__ our eyes__
You are__ the way__

We are__ Your sons__
We lay__ our hearts__
The truth__ and life__



__ and daugh - ters,
__ be - fore__ You,
__ we live__ for,

We've gath - ered__ here__
Ex - pect - tant__ here__
Oh how__ we__ long__



__ to meet__ with You._____
__ for You__ to move._____
__ to know__ You more._____

CHORUS



With our hands__ to the heav-ens, a - live__ in Your pre-sence,



O God,__ when You come.__ So pour__ out Your Spi - rit,



we love__ to be near You, O God,__ when You come.__

ENDING



Come like a rush - ing — wind;—

Come light the fire—



— a - gain;—

Come like a burn - ing flame; have

have



— Your way, —

have — Your way.

Words and Music: Bryan Brown, Jason Ingram, Kari Jobe & Tofer Brown
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CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Confession of Sin

Leader: "And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Everyone: Wonderful Counselor, we admit we pursue rival wonders of prosperity and security; we substitute replacement counselors of success and self-righteousness.

Congregation Singing:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Everyone: Mighty God, we acknowledge we wrongly view you as weak and ourselves as mighty. We fight to make ourselves our own gods.

Congregation Singing:

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law,
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Everyone: Everlasting Father, we confess we act like unwanted orphans rather than loved children.

Congregation Singing:

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Everyone: Prince of Peace, we admit we are often at war with you, ourselves, and others. We allow the war of guilt and shame to wage within us instead of running to your forgiveness.

Congregation Singing:

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our King of peace.

Silent Confession

† Words of Comfort and Assurance

From Zephaniah 3:14-17

Leader: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

Congregation Singing:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear!

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

† Greeting of Peace

THANKSGIVING

We give to the Lord in gratitude for what he has done for us.

8:45 a.m. – During the noisy offering, children ages kindergarten and younger will be dismissed to Room 223 for play time and snack.

Our Offerings

Pray for Adam and Mary McCulloch, who are seeking to communicate the good news of Jesus to a people group that have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

Musical Offering

“Mary, Did You Know?” – Combined Choirs

8:45 and 11:15 Services

(Courtney)

Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.

Mary, did you know? Mary, did you know?
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again:
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven’s perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you’re holding is the great, the great I AM!
Mary did you know?

Musical Offering

“What Child Is This?” – #150 in the Hymnal

10:00 Service



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

God speaks to us through his word.

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38, ESV

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Confessing our Faith | From the Heidelberg Catechism

Q. What does it mean [in the Apostles' Creed] that Jesus "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"?

A. That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the Virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.

Q. How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

A. He is our mediator and, in God's sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness my sinfulness in which I was conceived.

RESPONDING

We respond to God's word.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Leader: When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we remember the words of Paul:
"For whenever you come together and eat this bread and drink the cup,
you are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes again."

People: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Leader: Family of God, lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Songs for Meditation

"Come Away from Rush and Hurry"
(Lyrics by Marva J. Dawn)

Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace;
From our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ and find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life's demands and frenzied pace;
Come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's face.

In the pastures of God's goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of His mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of His presence all His saints are richly fed.
With the oil of His anointing into service we are led.

Come, then, children, with your burdens – life's confusions, fears, and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead His kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for He will quench them – He alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.

BEAUTIFUL THINGS



1. All this pain.____ I won-der if I'll e - ver find my way;____
2. All this earth.____ Could all that is lost ev - er be found;____
3. All a - round____ hope is spring-ing up from this old ground.____



I won-der if my life could real - ly change____ at____ all.____
 ... Could a gar-den come up from this ground____ at____ all?____ *sing refrain*
 ... Out of cha-os, life is be - ing found____ in____ You.____ *after verses 2 & 3*

refrain



You make beau-ti-ful things,____ You make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust.____



You make beau-ti-ful things,____ You make beau-ti - ful things out of us.____



You make me new, You_ are mak - ing____ me new.____



You make me new, You_ are mak - ing____ me new.____

Words and Music: Lisa Gungor and Michael Gungor
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Prayers of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

People: 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 and ever. Amen.

Prayer Needs

For Health

Mary Cox, Frances Eichost, Vickie O'Dell, Margaret Leith, Dabney Harvey, Eileen Raynor, Pam Padgett, Lou Hanscom, Carol Holt, Celeste Reynolds, Gretchen Gravely, Betty and Joe Cox, Pam Rambo, Jared Armistead

For Comfort

Deaths — Libbie Davis (11/27), Jennifer deCerff (father, 11/24), David Morris (mother-in-law, 11/24), Mary Howard (11/18), Diane Atkinson (mother, 11/3), Michael Phillips (grandmother, 10/31), Mark Grubbs (father, 10/27), Jennifer Parham (father, 10/7), Karen Fite (father, 10/6), Frank Wilson (sister, 10/4)

For Metro Richmond

We pray for the families of metropolitan Richmond: for single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, and for households that are communities of friends; for elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions.

For Our Nation and the World

United States of America, Uruguay

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is one of the two sacraments we celebrate (the other is baptism). It is one of the most important things we do when we gather together, because the bread and juice are concrete signs of what Jesus has done for us on the cross. When we come forward to receive them, we believe that Jesus is actually present through the Holy Spirit, extending his grace and forgiveness to us.

We welcome all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. If you are not able to receive Communion, we invite you to use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

Prayer of Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Lead me into the light and life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more blind and sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete acceptance. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

— Adapted from prayers written by Rev. Scot Sherman, Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

SENDING

God sends us into the world as his witnesses.

† **Song of Commission**

“Jesus Shall Reign” – #745 in the Hymnal

† **Commission**

From 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Leader: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

† **Benediction**

Postlude

11:15 Service

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” – Jeff Hummel
(Paul Manz)

SERVICE NOTES

The Chrismon tree in our Sanctuary is a decades-old tradition at Third. Chrismons are decorations of gold and white, representing the majesty and purity of our Lord. The word *Chrismon* is a combination of the words *Christ* and *monogram*. Our Chrismons were lovingly handmade by the Women of the Church some forty or fifty years ago. We will read about their symbolism in the weeks to come.

Today's flowers are given in honor of our mission partners, Adam and Mary McCulloch, who seek to communicate the good news of Jesus to a people group that have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

Having difficulty hearing? See one of our ushers to use a hearing assistance device.

Stop Hunger Now – Gift Card Drive

Join in our goal of raising \$29,000 – the equivalent of 100,000 meals – for Stop Hunger Now on January 23. Donate in honor of family or friends and receive a Christmas gift card to give them. Donate and sign up to serve at Stop Hunger Now on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall or Steeple Corridor, or go online and pick up your card(s) on Sunday morning.

Poinsettia Season – Place Your Order Now!

Enhance worship at Third during Advent and then enjoy the seasonal beauty at home. Order a red poinsettia for \$12.00 each in memory or honor of a loved one. Contact Rebecca Hatton by December 9 to place your order (rebeccah@thirdrva.org or 282-4645, ext. 101). Your plant can be claimed after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service concludes.

Crossover – Help a Family in Need

Each Christmas season, CrossOver Healthcare Ministry identifies the most vulnerable families among our low-income, uninsured patient population. They are then matched with people in the community that desire to help with anything from practical needs to friendship to assisting with Christmas gifts. If your small group or family is interested in serving your neighbor in this way, please contact Lynn Williams (lwilliams@crossoverministry.org).

Third Church Office Hours – Holiday Season

The Third Church offices will be closed for Christmas on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, December 24-25. We will also be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, December 31 and January 1. Any year-end contributions can be made online (www.thirdrva.org/generosity) or dropped off at the offices by December 30.

Relationships in Peace Ministry

If you are experiencing a relationship impasse or need someone to walk beside you through a difficult relational situation or conflict, please contact us. We're here to help. Learn about this Third care ministry at www.thirdrva.org/partners/relationships-in-peace. For assistance: RelationshipsInPeace.ThirdRVA@gmail.com or call Margie Satterfield, (804) 819-0260.

EVENTS

For more information on classes, events and ministries, come to the Fellowship Hall from 9:45-11:30 a.m., visit our website or find more information at kiosks throughout the building.

Tonight! Lessons and Carols – December 6, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for a special service that tells the story of Jesus through scripture readings, visual arts, instrumental music and the singing of carols. The service is led in the Sanctuary, interweaving ancient and modern worship traditions, and concludes with the lighting of candles.

Christmas Eve Services at Third – 4:00, 6:30, 8:30, and 11:00 p.m.

We'd love for you, your family, and your friends to join us on Christmas Eve at one of our four services. During the 4:00 p.m. service, children will be invited to participate in a live Nativity. Come dressed as a shepherd, angel, wise man, or animal to be a part.

Dinner 8's is returning in January

Want to meet more folks at Third over a good meal? With Dinner 8's, you're placed in a supper group that meets monthly from January through April. Dinners are in one another's homes or at a restaurant. Sign up at thirdrva.org/registrations or contact Allene Brown (allenedbrown@gmail.com or 804-441-1668).

Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast – Jan. 13, 7 a.m., Richmond Convention Center

Tickets for the 50th Annual Commonwealth Prayer Breakfast are now available. The speaker this year is Ravi Zacharias, a widely respected evangelist, author, and teacher. Buy tickets online (\$35/each) at commonwealthprayerbreakfast.org. Questions: vacpb@aol.com.

Urban Hope Cocktails and Conversation – Being Rescheduled

Our interest meeting and gathering (originally scheduled for December 10) will be rescheduled for January. Be on the lookout for more details in the coming weeks.

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday Morning Discipleship Fellowship Classes (10:00 –11:00 a.m.)

Sermon Chat: New location! Join us in Room 207 which is conveniently located next to our 2nd floor coffee area. We are your impromptu destination “drop-in” class! We’ll discuss the scriptures and the sermon’s main themes in an engaging venue.

To learn more about our other discipleship/fellowship classes, please visit our website or see the “Fall Season” pamphlet (located in the media racks) to read about all the study options, serving opportunities, and ways to be with your community. Please contact Tom Barila (tomb@thirdrva.org) for questions or details.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Sunday Morning Ministry

600 Forest Ave., Student Ministry Area

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

Sunday Evening Ministry

600 Forest Ave., Fellowship Hall and Basement

7:00-8:30 p.m. For all students in 7th-12th grade.

For more information on upcoming student ministry events and how you can get involved, contact Rick Hutton (rickh@thirdrva.org) or Andrea Woie (andreaw@thirdrva.org).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - SUNDAY MORNING

We welcome you to Third and want you to know that your children are precious to us! Our staff of both professional childcare workers and volunteers are here to serve your family in a safe, loving and Christ-centered environment.

Nursery is provided for the 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday services. Sunday school is at 10:00 a.m. Childcare is available for all children aged Kindergarten and younger. First grade and above attend worship with their parents. For details on all Sunday school class offerings, pick up the Fall class brochure found near the doors.

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.

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).

THIS WEEK AT THIRD

Sunday, December 6

9:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Weekly refreshments – Fellowship Hall

12:30 p.m. Praying for Our Nation – Room 101

7:00 p.m. Student Ministry gathering – Fellowship Hall and Basement

7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service – Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 8

9:30 a.m. Weekly Morning Mothers Together – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Deacons' meeting – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

Wednesday, December 9

6:00 p.m. Handbell rehearsal – Choir Room

6:45 p.m. Alleluia choir rehearsal – Choir Room

7:00 p.m. Praise band rehearsal – Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. Third Brass rehearsal – Choir Room

Thursday, December 10

5:00 p.m. Praise Band rehearsal – Sanctuary

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

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

Friday, December 11

9:00 a.m. Emotional Eating Group – Knox Room, 500 Forest Avenue

SPECIAL MUSIC OFFERING: SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES, DECEMBER 13

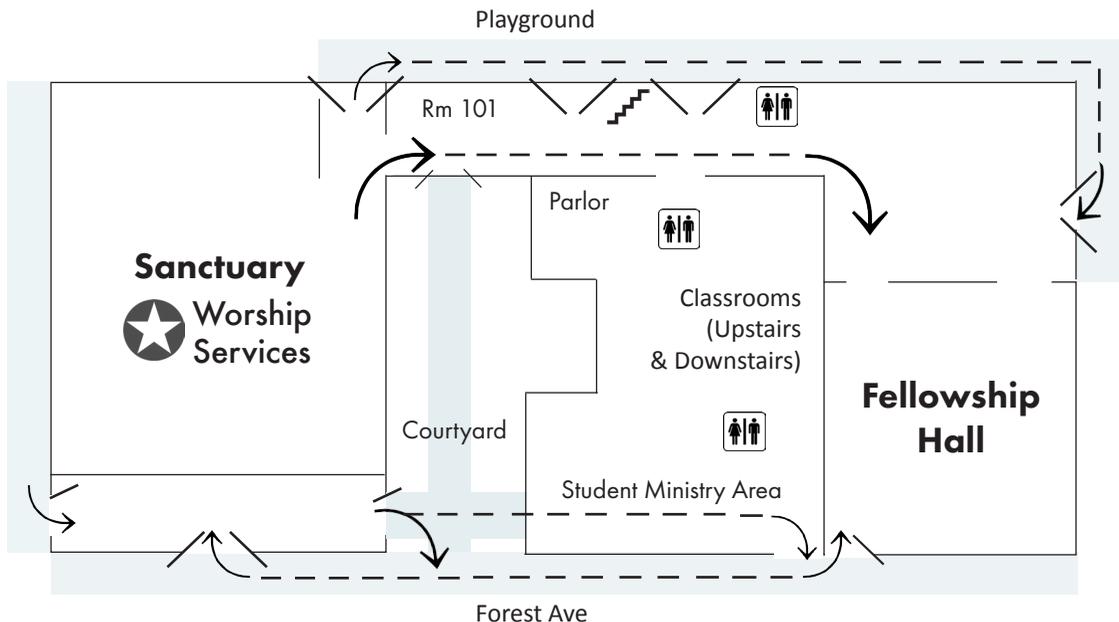
Next Sunday morning, Alleluia and the Sanctuary Choir will be presenting "Gloria" by John Rutter as a part of our three morning worship services. This is an exciting setting of the song of the Angels proclaiming the birth of Christ. It will be accompanied by organ, brass, and timpani. This will be a great opportunity to invite friends and family to join us.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIRD

Welcome to Third! Visit www.thirdrva.org to learn more about the community and how you can connect. Worship preparation, sermon reflection notes, and sermon audio are posted weekly. You can also watch the sermon live on the "This Sunday" page. If you'd like to join a small group, find out how you can become a member, or find ways to serve, please contact Beth Nichols at bethn@thirdrva.org. Also follow us on Facebook and Twitter for community updates.

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP TODAY!

Our services are at 8:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 11:15 a.m. on Sundays in the Sanctuary. Join us for a short time of communion and prayer every Sunday at 8:15 a.m. in Room 101. From 9:45-11:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, stop by for a time of fellowship and refreshments, including Blanchard's coffee, in the Fellowship Hall.



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A Covenant Order
of Evangelical Presbyterians