

the CRUCIFORM LIFE

Sunday | February 18, 2018

CRUCIFORM WISDOM

First Sunday of Lent

"In every Christian's heart there is a cross and a throne, and the Christian is on the throne till he puts himself on the cross; if he refuses the cross, he remains on the throne. Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among gospel believers today. We want to be saved, but we insist that Christ do all the dying. No cross for us, no dethronement, no dying. We remain king within the little kingdom of Mansoul and wear our tinsel crown with all the pride of a Caesar; but we doom ourselves to shadows and weakness and spiritual sterility."

A.W. Tozer



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

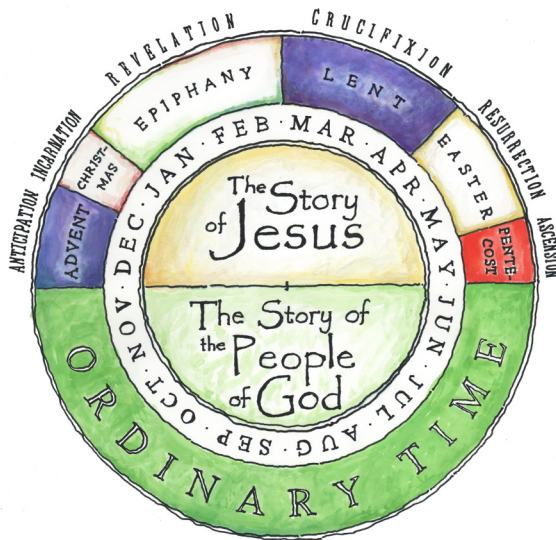
Welcome!
¡Bienvenido!
欢迎!
مرحباً

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

Sanctuary Decorations

During the season of Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday, we continue to remember that followers of Jesus “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.

Our banners of royal purple ribbons were introduced during Advent to reflect 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. Now, in a season focused on remembering Jesus’ suffering on our behalf—and for repentance and self-reflection of our own sins for which he died—we have added additional layers of gray and brown and gauze to represent Jesus’ rejection and submission to the pain of the world. Because we grieve together as one Body of Christ and not just as individuals, our banners also include strips of printed and painted cloth made together by men, women and children of our congregation (along with neighbors and visitors) as part of our Journey to the Cross meditation experience—a response with hands and hearts as well as minds to the sacrifice made by Jesus.



GATHERING

God gathers us all and calls us by his grace.

Prelude

Ron Klipp

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Preparation for Worship 8:45/11:15 a.m. services

"Let All Who Are Thirsty, Come"

Sanctuary Choir

Let all who are thirsty, come.

Let all who wish, receive the water of life freely.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

† Call to Worship

From Psalm 145

Leader: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
His greatness no one can fathom.

**People: One generation commends your works to another;
They tell of your mighty acts.**

Leader: They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

**People: They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.**

Leader: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

People: Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Prayer of Adoration

† Songs of Praise

"Great Are You, Lord"

"Break Us by the Power of Your Grace"

(See music on following pages)

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

GREAT ARE YOU, LORD

You give life. You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart that is broken.
And great are you, Lord.

*It's your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to you only.*

And all the earth will shout your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
"Great are you, Lord!"

Words and Music: David Leonard, Jason Ingram & Leslie Jordan;
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BREAK US BY THE POWER OF YOUR GRACE

When I stand in the presence of a holy God,
And I flee and I cover my face,
My heart filled with shame, yet you still call my name,
And you break me by the power of your grace.

(refrain)

Break us by the power of your grace, O Lord,
Break us by the power of your grace.
Break us, remake us, don't let the sorrow take us;
O break us by the power of your grace.

When I walk through the evil and strife of the earth
And I turn and I cover my eyes,
The arms that do violence while our hearts watch in silence—
Won't you break them by the power of your grace?

When my flesh, it shall fail, and my work here is done,
And the heavens and earth are remade,
Though I sowed here in sorrow it will be glorious tomorrow.
He'll remake it by the power of his grace!

Refrain



CONFESSING

God invites us to be honest with him about ourselves.

Song of Confession

"Take, O Take Me As I Am"

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with the Bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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Silent Confession

† Words of Comfort

From 1 Timothy 1:15 and 1 Peter 2:24

Leader: This is a trustworthy statement that deserves full acceptance,
that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that we, free from sin, might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.

Everyone: Thanks be to God!

† 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

Our Offerings

Pray for Lyle Thomas and wife Diana, training leaders in St. Petersburg, Russia to plant churches and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Offertory

"Grace Flows Down"
by Christy Nockels

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me.

It covers me, it covers me, it covers me, and covers me.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me.

It covers me, it covers me, it covers me, and covers me.

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
Amazing love, now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
As grace flows down and covers me. (repeat)**



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.

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 3:18-19a

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him—¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Message:
Cruciform Wisdom
+ Corey Widmer +

Notes:


RESPONDING

We respond to God's word.

Prayers of the People



Have mer-cy_ on_ us, have mer-cy_ on_ us, O
O help my_ un-be-lief, O help my_ un-be-lief,



Lord, have mer - cy, O Lord have mer - cy.

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Prayer Needs

For Health

Mary Ann Hancock, Estelle Short, Rick DeJarnette, Sean Sanderson, Katie Bishop, Dru Fitch, Margaret Leith, Larry Dupree, Nick Jeffer, Kaye Phillips, 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:

Nan Clarke (father, 1/31), Peggy Larmore and Scott Copeland (father and grandfather, 1/31), Cindy Vogel (mother, 12/30), Martha Rupel (sister, 12/30), Jane Fields (sister, 12/21), Andy Burgess (wife Brenda, 12/19), Sue Kimball (brother, 12/16), Frank Wilson and Lynley Steadman (brother, uncle, 12/1)

For Metro Richmond

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom in metropolitan Richmond: for redemption of the divisions, prejudices, pettiness, despair and discrimination of the past.

SENDING

God sends us into the world as his witnesses.

† **Song of Commission**

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#62 in the Hymnal

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

† Commission

From Romans 11:33-36

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?
Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?

**People: For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.**

† Benediction

Postlude
11:15 a.m. service

Ron Klipp

NEWS & EVENTS

Now Accepting Nominations for Officers for 2019

Each year, we solicit nominations for officers (Elders, Deacons, and Trustees) from our covenant partners. If you would like to nominate someone, please pick up a nomination form found in the pews or at thirdrva.org/leadership-and-staff, and return it by March 4. We consider this one of the most important tasks a covenant partner can participate in, and we look forward to receiving your nominations!

How to Be a Tech-Wise Family: An Evening with Andy Crouch – Friday, March 2, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Join us for this seminar on how each of us and our families can steward the use of technology in our lives in life-giving ways. Andy Crouch, author of *The Tech-Wise Family*, will lead our conversation. We'll close out the evening with some Q and A time with Andy. Family-friendly, but not family-only! Come one, come all. Childcare available only with a reservation to: kathyw@thirdrva.org.

Managing Media Class – Wednesdays in March, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Multipurpose Room at 500 Forest

Parents are hungry for how to help their children, and themselves as well, disconnect from technology enough to re-connect as a family. In this class, parents will discuss how we model tech behavior ourselves, set boundaries, and use truth and grace together to build stronger relationships within our family instead of division. We will touch on difficult subjects such as addiction and cyber-bullying. This class will be taught by Mark and Susan Holt. Register: thirdrva.org/events.

New Sunday School Term Starts March 4!

Starting March 4 we're kicking off a new slate of Sunday morning discipleship classes for adults. The classes will take place around the church building (and even one in our office building), all at 10:00 a.m. We'll be sharing all the details with you on the new classes in the coming days. Mark your calendars to attend a new class come March!

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University – Sundays, 10 a.m., starts March 4

We all need a plan for our money and God wants us to have financial peace. This class will teach you to create a budget, pay off debt, spend and save wisely, and give generously-- no matter where you are with your money. Join us on March 4 for an informational meeting with the first class beginning the following week. Registration is required (by March 1): thirdrva.org/events. Questions? Contact Tom Barila: tomb@thirdrva.org.

Donate to Families Arriving to the States From Egypt!

New families from Egypt are beginning to arrive again. They are in need of all the basic necessities to set up their apartments: beds and linens, couches, chairs, kitchen tables, dishes, etc. Also, do you have an old pickup truck you'd be willing to donate to help with collecting goods? If you are able to help with any of these, please contact the church office at 282-4645.

SUNDAY ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

2018 February Term: The Art of Neighboring, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Each winter, we take a month to get on the same page as a church. We combine our adult Sunday discipleship classes and study an issue together that has bearing on how we live our lives as Christ-followers--no matter what age or stage of life we find ourselves in. This year, we are looking at a very timely topic: The Art of Neighboring. We're exploring together this call to love our neighbors and how it will be lived out in our neighborhoods through the parish model, and we'll share how we're already seeing the fruit of this work today.

Each week will feature different speakers, panels, and engaging elements. Plus plenty of coffee and snacks! We look forward to this time together each year, so we hope to see you all there.

February 18: Neighboring – The Stories of Parish Life (Teacher: Panel of speakers, discussions)

February 25: Neighboring – The Commission of Parish Life (Teachers: Andrew Fuller, Richard Haney, and LJ Jaworski)

Questions? Contact Tom Barila (tomb@thindrva.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@thindrva.org) or Andrea (andreaw@thindrva.org).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - SUNDAY MORNING

DURING THE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE: Sunday School is available for all children and students. See below for room locations for all Sunday School classes:

AGE	ROOM
Infants, toddlers, 2 year olds (Little Lambs)	All on the 1st floor
Little Lions - Young 3s	Room 223
Little Monkeys - Older 3s, Young 4s	Room 204
Little Eagles - Older 4s	Room 202
Kindergarten	Room 227
1st Grade	Room 220
2nd Grade	Room 221
3rd Grade	Room 201
4th Grade	Room 209
5th and 6th Grade	Basement
Middle and High School	Meet in Student Ministry Area

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 across the courtyard and directly up the stairs, Room 226.

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, February 18

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

10:00 a.m. Welcome Coffee – Parlor

12:30 p.m. Jobs for Life Champion Training – Multipurpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue

Monday, February 19

6:00 p.m. Jobs for Life – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Kingdom Knitters – Parlor

Tuesday, February 20

9:30 a.m. "All Things New: A Study on 2 Corinthians" – Room 213

6:30 p.m. Dinner study group – Kitchen, 500 Forest Avenue

Wednesday, February 21

9:30 a.m. Community Bible Study – Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Refresh evening study – Parlor

6:30 p.m. Club56 – Basement

Thursday, February 22

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

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

Friday, February 23

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

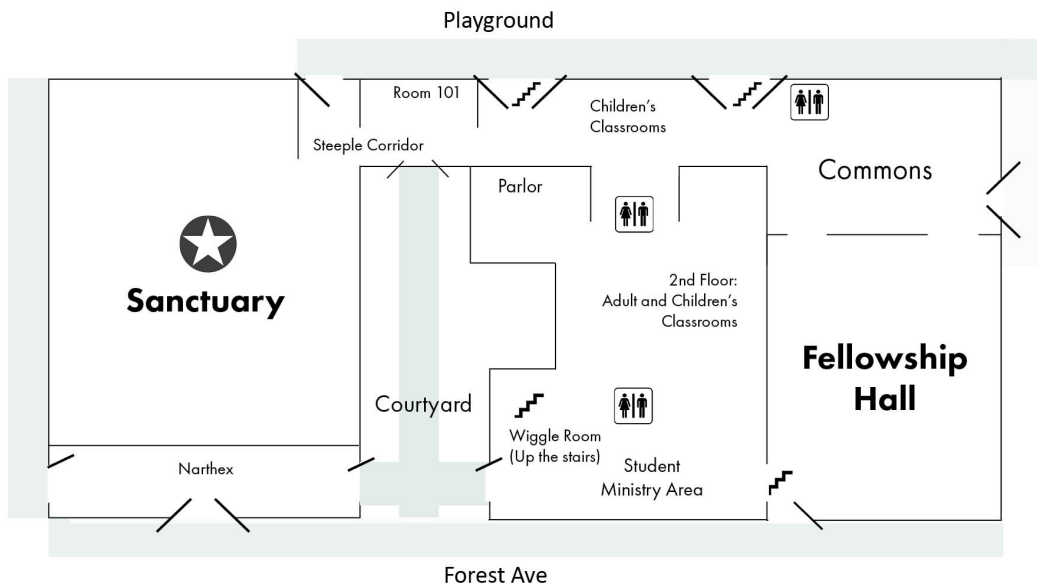
JOIN US NEXT WEEK

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 our ministry 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
- **Today! Welcome Coffee:** 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. The place to start to learn more about Third!

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
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500 Forest Ave.
Richmond, VA 23229
www.thirdrva.org



A Covenant Order
of Evangelical Presbyterians