

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 Commons area 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

Evelyn Jennings, Paul White, Joe Keller, Mary Cox, Nancy Cunningham

Deaths

Tom Tullidge and Aggie Cullen (father), 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)

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.

January 4, 2015
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

MEDITATION

"We don't have to fit into prefabricated moral and mental or religious boxes before we are admitted into the company of God. We are taken seriously just as we are and given place in his story — for it is, after all, God's story. None of us is the leading character in the story of our lives. God is the larger context and plot in which all our stories find themselves."
Eugene Peterson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 86:8-10

Leader: Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours.

People: All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord;

Leader: They will bring glory to your name.

People: For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.

OPENING PRAYER

SONGS OF PRAISE

CONFESSION

Wonderful Counselor, we admit we pursue rival wonders and replacement counselors.

Silence

Mighty God, we acknowledge we wrongly view You as weak, and ourselves as mighty.

Silence

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

Silence

Prince of Peace, we own the fact we are often at war with You, ourselves and others.

Silence

WORDS OF COMFORT AND FORGIVENESS

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:4-7

SONG OF ASSURANCE

GREETING OF PEACE

The Greeting of Peace is a physical display of the peace that Jesus has bought for us through his death and resurrection. He has given us peace with God and peace with one another.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING

Pray for Andrew Foster at the University of Granada, Spain as he teaches English and develops relationships to have opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

“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.”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

(scripture parallel)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

“The Sending Savior”

Corey Widmer

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Instructions

Invitation to the Table

Sursum Corda

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

SONG OF COMMISSION

BENEDICTION

Today’s Bible Reading

Acts 1:1-11

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach
² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” ⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Today’s Service Leaders

Rick Hutton, Beth Nichols, Kim Taulbee, Scott Frayser, Luke Swygard, Lex Strickland, Chelsea Olson, Chitra Swygard, Tracie Meadows, Craig Truitt