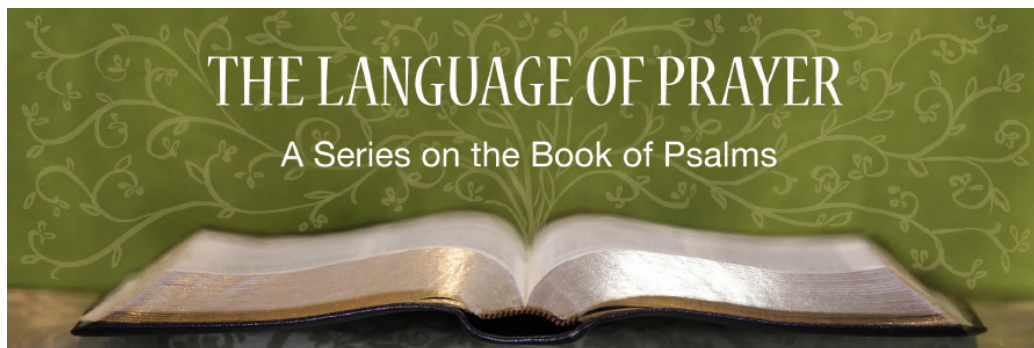




THIRD PRESS

July 2017



LETTER FROM COREY

THE LANGUAGE OF PRAYER: LEARNING TO PRAY THE PSALMS

Dear Third Family,

Growing up in the American evangelical sub-culture, it was a given that prayer was easy and everyone should know how to do it. For years I believed that praying rote and prescriptive prayers was for people who didn't have the creativity and insight to pray their own prayers out of their hearts. Prayer is just "speaking your heart to God," right? Be confident. Just speak what comes out. What could be easier?

Over time, however, I began to see some problems with this idea. It all just began to feel a bit presumptuous. How do you know how to talk to the God of the cosmos? Is it even right to think you can address the Lord of the Universe like you address your best friend? In Scripture, oftentimes when people attempt to address God, they faint, fall, or die. Even when the disciples were with Jesus, they were so overwhelmed by the power of the reality of God, so in awe of Jesus' intimacy with the Father, that they realized they had no idea how to pray (Luke 11:1).

The truth is, when it comes to prayer, simply speaking your heart is not enough. We need to be instructed. We're just like children who need to be taught how to speak. And how do children learn how to speak? By being spoken to. It takes literally years of listening before we can learn to respond. And in the same way, we must learn how to speak to our Father by having our Father first speak to us.

“ The richness of God's Word ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our hearts. ”

For this reason God has given us the Psalms, the book that Christians throughout the centuries have dubbed "the prayer book of the Bible." The people of Israel used these prayers in corporate worship. Jesus and his disciples sang them (Mt. 26:30). The early Christians prayed and sang them (Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16). In the Reformation, many traditions threw out the hymns and solely sang the Psalms. Even Jesus Christ, who

OUR STAFF

Rev. Corey Widmer
Lead Pastor

Rev. Ed Satterfield
Executive Pastor

Rev. Rick Hutton
Associate Pastor for Students
(grades 6 - 12)

Laurie Jaworski
Mission Pastor

Andrea Woie
Student Ministry Associate

Alan Ware
Director of Finance
& Administration

Tom Barila
Director of Adult Ministries

Tracie Meadows
Associate Dir. of Family Ministry

Kathy White
Associate Dir. of Family Ministry

Dr. John White
Director of Music

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
Parish Associate

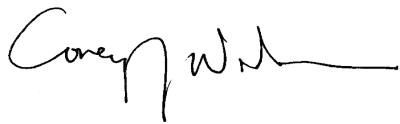
Rev. Nan Clarke
Parish Associate Care Ministries

of all people we would expect to “just speak his heart,” prayed the Psalms in his most trying moments, in the garden (Psalm 22) and on the cross (Psalm 31). God’s people seem to have understood for millennia that the Psalms are not just God’s Word to us, but they are also God’s Word for us: God praying on our behalf and through these prayers, teaching us how to pray.

This is a radical departure from my Pray-What-Comes-Out-Of-Your-Heart approach. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it, “The richness of God’s Word ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our hearts.” In contrast with praying beginning with speaking, the Psalms suggest that all prayer begins with hearing. Prayer is not initiating speech with God, it is responding to God’s own speech to us.

This rang true for me during a season of deep spiritual drought. As a young adult I found it increasingly difficult to pray anything meaningful. Time alone in silence left me feeling more overwhelmed than refreshed, for when the noises turned off I experienced a barrage of worry and preoccupation. I found that though I had been a Christian for many years, I increasingly felt like I did not know how to pray. I sometimes wondered if God was there at all. But during this time, a mentor taught me how to pray the Psalms, and the practice revolutionized my prayer life. I realized I needed to learn how to speak to God, how to respond to him, and even how to understand my own emotions and experiences through his Word.

In this summer series on the Psalms, our prayer is that you not only learn about what God is saying to you through the Psalms, but in turn you learn how to use the Psalms to speak back to him. In doing so, you will find a beautiful conversation taking place as you respond to the One speaking to you in love.



“The Psalms are not just God’s Word to us, but they are also God’s Word for us.”

PSALMS: THE LANGUAGE OF PRAYER

Our church family will gather together for a special, interactive intergenerational class. We’ll be following the sermon series and putting each teaching from the Psalms: The Language of Prayer series into action. This class is great for adults and children, ages kindergarten and up! Each class is stand-alone so join us when you can! [Click for topic and teacher.](#)

LED BY: Rotating Teachers

LOCATION: Fellowship Hall

NOTE: All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian!

LEADERSHIP UPDATE: MAY

LEADERSHIP UPDATE: MAY 23, 2017

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MOST
RECENT SESSION MEETING:

Membership Changes

- Doug and Courtney Ludeman transferred to Christ Anglican Church, Heathsville, VA
- Anna Boyce DeBell transferred to Redeemer Community Church, Birmingham, AL
- Becky Slootweg passed away on April 20, 2017

Session Committee Actions

- Budget and Stewardship - \$70,000 of principal on the 500 Forest office building loan was paid down in May.
- Nominating - The team anticipates completion of the slate of candidates for Shepherding Elder, Governing Elder, Deacon, and Trustee within the next month.
- Personnel
- Staff reviews were completed for nearly all staff in May.
- Staff objectives were set for the ministry year July 2017 – June 2018 as a part of the review process. Some goals are still being finalized. Completed goals are listed below.
- Mark Sprinkle, who has been serving in a volunteer staff capacity for about three years, is stepping down from his role as Director of Cultural Arts and Engagement but will continue to serve as a non-staff volunteer in several areas such as The Maker's Series.

Parish Leadership Teams – held their first organizing meeting on May 23. Time was spent in training and organization for the launching of the Parish Ministry in January 2018. Currently 31 Shepherding Elders and 27 Deacons make up the 11 teams for each Parish. A Parish map shows the areas that make up the Parishes currently named by color.

MEN'S MINISTRY

OUR FOCUS...

To be a band of brothers who exhort and enable each other to put Jesus Christ first at home, at work, and in the world.

COMING UP/SAVE THE DATE

JULY 4

FLYING SQUIRRELS BASEBALL
& FIREWORKS – 6:35 P.M.

We've purchased a block of tickets to this July 4 baseball game and night of fireworks! We hope you will join us for a fun night at the ballpark. Tickets are available on our [website](#).

JULY 10-14

SPORTS CAMP

Would love a few volunteers! Also, time to register your campers! [Click Here](#) for more information.

AUGUST 28

\$5 STEAK NIGHT & CORNHOLE TOURNEY
AT CWC'S PAVILION. 6 P.M.

Other summer outings. Please contact the guy below for more details:

BIKE RIDE ON CAP TRAIL: [Grant H.](#)

HIKING: [John H.](#)

SERVICE: [Buck R.](#)

MENTORING/SPIRITUAL FORMATION/
COMMUNITY CONNECTION: [Tom B.](#)

F3 (FLY FISHING FELLOWSHIP): [David S.](#)

Give [Tom](#) a shout if you'd like something shared with your fellow band of brothers, (804) 888-7811.

SUMMER COLLEGE MINISTRY

Please come to all events as you are able! We would love to see you all there even if you need to miss a few meetings due to busy schedules!

Like and Follow us!

  @thirdrvacollege

SUNDAY LUNCHES @ SHORE DOG

WHO: All college students and high school seniors

WHERE: ShoreDog restaurant, across the street from church

WHEN: Every Sunday through July 30, 12:30 p.m. (after last service)

Enjoy lunch and sermon chat with fellow college students and other Third members.



CHAT & CHEW: BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL – YOUR FAITH IN COLLEGE

WHO: High school juniors and seniors AND college freshmen and sophomores

WHEN: Sundays through July 30 (excluding July 2)
5-6:30 p.m.

Join your student ministry/college interns for dinner and discussion about faith and college.

Wrap up in time for youth group.

MEN'S STUDY: THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

WHO: College-age men (including graduated high school seniors)

WHEN: Wednesday nights, June 14-July 26, 7 p.m.

WHERE: 9009 Rio Grande Road, Richmond

Join us as we dive into how faith plays a role in every aspect of our lives, and how God is at the center of it all. Contact Wesley Owens (754-5547) for more info or to sign up.

WOMEN'S SUMMER SESSION BIBLE STUDY

WHO: College-age women and older

WHERE: Third Church Fellowship Hall

WHEN: Wednesday nights, July 12-August 6
(6 sessions), 7-8:45 p.m.

Join our college table to study the Bible together and socialize! Together, we'll navigate the difficult questions of how God is at work even in dark times, and how through it all he remains faithful and good. [Register Here.](#)

SUMMER COLLEGE MINISTRY

SPORTS SKILLS CAMP 2017

WHO: All college students

WHERE: Community West on Pump Road (near Godwin)

WHEN: Week of July 10-14 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Volunteer along with Tom Barila and the SOI team to help run a sports camp for children from the local immigrant population, Christian Arabic Church and Third. Serve one day or serve all five! Sign-up required, but no advance training needed. Service hours available.

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS NIGHT WITH COREY & CHARLES

WHO: All college students and graduated high school seniors

WHEN: Thursday July 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

WHERE: 8106 Rose Hill Road, Richmond

Join Corey Widmer, lead pastor of Third and Charles Teixeira, pastoral intern at Third and X3 Leader for XXX Church for an open and honest conversation about difficult topics such as pornography, sexuality, suffering, other religions, etc.

QUESTIONS? Contact Wesley Owens (754-5547) or Megan Foster (229-7812).

BON VOYAGE-COLLEGE SEND-OFF PARTY

WHO: All college students

WHEN: Sunday, August 13, 7 p.m.

Gather for food, fun, encouragement and prayer before heading to school or starting your job.



MISSION PARTNER UPDATE

The “Q” family has been partners in Missions with Third almost as long as Third has had a Missions department. Working with Wycliffe in the Philippines, they started on the remote island of Palawan, living in a palm-leaf hut, translating the New Testament into Agutaynan. In the almost 30 years since then, they have seen responsibilities

and locations shift—most recently to Manila, where Steve has been Global Scripture Access Services Director and Janice has worked at Faith Academy—the largest missions kids' school in Asia. Man, we love this family!

Dear Family at Third,

I write this on the day before we leave the Philippines. We've been back here four years, happily corresponding to Daniel's high school career. Leaving the Philippines a second time isn't quite as hard as it was leaving the first time (after 24 years). Still, it's not easy. At Daniel's graduation we heard some good advice: "Don't cry that it's over; smile that it happened." So we are smiling now with gratitude in our hearts and many good memories behind us. God has been faithful.

We've lived in four different furnished houses over the past four years, moving every year. That means we can fit most of what we want to bring back with us to the USA in our luggage allowance...and the rest, well, it just won't come. We've had some good recent opportunities to say goodbyes to special people and places. One highlight on a journey back to the neighborhood in Palawan where Betsy spent some early childhood years was when our boatman asked if we had an Agutaynen New Testament with us he could buy. I was happy to give him one as a gift, with a note referencing Acts 20:32: "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (NIV)

The next steps involve finding our way back to Grand Rapids, Michigan—and leaving a week later for the trip of a lifetime. Janice and I are going on a hiking tour of Jordan and Israel. We're fulfilling a dream, marking the likely end of our years living overseas, and celebrating 35 years of marriage six months early.

After that, we'll have a little time to regroup and to reconnect with family and friends and our sending organization, Wycliffe USA. Assuming our financial support level is up to what it should be, I hope to begin working again full-time in mid-August continuing in the same role as Global Scripture Access Services Director. Janice's next assignment is yet to be determined. Daniel is planning on a gap year to make some money and figure out what comes next in terms of career.

Thank you so much for your continuing prayers and financial partnership with us in the work of making the message of the Bible accessible to the peoples of the earth in languages that speak to their hearts. May we find the Word of God ever close to our own hearts, that we may obey it and receive the life he offers to all who come to him (Deuteronomy 30:11-14).



“Don't cry that it's over;
smile that it happened.”

Ever grateful,
Steve & Janice Q

NEW MEMBERS

HOSPITALITY TIME

Here's your chance to make our newest members feel welcome. Memorize these faces, and then make a point of saying, "Hi!" Sit next to them in church. Invite them for lunch. Greet them in the hall. Welcome to the family!



Tracie & Chris
Adams



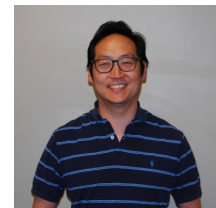
Blair & Will
Bigelow



Alex & Janice
Bruce



Karen & David
Carroll



Phil Choi



Erin & Cody
Fleeher



Matt Foster



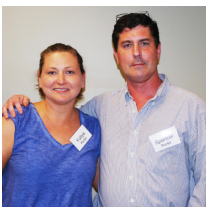
Will Hayes



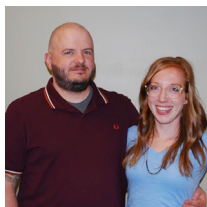
Colin & Margaret
Hunter



Billy & Jen
Martin



Yuliya & Spencer
Porter



Sean & Kira
Rhorer



Matt
Schindler



Mark Smith



Liz & Christian
Stiff



Nate Story



Nate Tate



Alexa & Braxton
Vinson



Third Church
500 Forest Ave.
Richmond, Virginia 23229
(804) 282-4645



FIVE BOOKS ON PRAYING THE PSALMS

PSALMS: THE PRAYERBOOK OF THE BIBLE,
by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Fortress Press, 1974).

A classic theological exploration of the psalms
and the nature of prayer.

**ANSWERING GOD: THE PSALMS AS
TOOLS FOR PRAYER**, by Eugene Peterson
(HarperOne, 1991).

Peterson offers some wonderful reflections
on prayer and how the psalms serve as a
practical tool for prayer.

PRAYING THE BIBLE, by Donald Whitney
(Crossway, 2015).

A powerful little book that very practically
leads you through a way to pray the Bible.
Not specifically about the Psalms but
very applicable.

**GOD'S PRAYER BOOK: THE POWER
AND PLEASURE OF PRAYING THE PSALMS**,
by Ben Patterson (Tyndale, 2008).

After a nice introduction on the psalms,
Patterson actually picks out about half of
the psalms with prayer commentary to help
you creatively pray the psalms.

**THE SONGS OF JESUS: A YEAR OF DAILY
DEVOTIONS IN THE PSALMS**, by Timothy
and Kathy Keller (Viking, 2015).

A wonderful daily devotional in the Psalms.

THIRD PRESS DEADLINE FOR AUGUST: Friday, July 14. Submit to: kjeffer@recreativeinc.com