



ThirdPRESS

MARCH 2020

A NEW SERMON SERIES

THE APOSTLES'
CREED

As we begin Lent, we also begin a new sermon series on the Apostle's Creed. For centuries, the Apostles' Creed has been the most universal articulation of the Christian faith. It summarizes in the most succinct way not only what we believe, but also what millions of Christians of innumerable ages and cultures have affirmed as well. Studying it in depth gives us an opportunity to remind ourselves of what we believe and also anchors us in the global and historical Christian community.

But the creed doesn't just tell us what we believe. It also tells us who we are. In the Old Testament, God instructed the Israelites to practice all sorts of different rituals and ceremonies. But these weren't just empty rituals: they were meant to remind the Israelites of their story, to remind them of who they were and who God was. Exodus 12:26 says in reference to the Passover celebration, "When your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt..." Through the ceremony, they were re-telling the story of the Passover and reminding themselves of what kind of people they were called to be: those who had been saved and commissioned by the living God.

When we say the creed, we are re-telling the story of God and therefore the story of our own lives. The creed tells the whole history of the world. It begins, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth..." and it ends with "I believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting." In other words, the world was not created by accident and it will not end in meaningless cosmic death. The creed tells the story of God. And at the very center of the story is the most important story of all, the story of Jesus, his life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension. As we move through Lent toward Easter, we'll dwell deeply in the story of Jesus as the story that most profoundly shapes our lives.

We hope you'll engage in this new sermon series. Even more than that, we hope you'll begin to incorporate the creed more and more into your daily life. Not only does it give us a framework of belief - it reminds us who we are and who we are called to be.

SILENT ALLELUIA

Lent is a 40-day period of preparation and repentance, a time in which we anticipate the joy of Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Because of the contemplative nature of Lent, singing or saying the word, "alleluia" has historically been suspended during Lent, a practice that goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church.

In that vein, we at Third suspend the use of alleluia in our worship services from Ash Wednesday until Easter. On Easter Sunday the alleluias will return and we will sing and say alleluia with great celebration and ring bells with joy! We hope this will be a meaningful time of contemplation for our community leading to a joyous celebration!

Campaign Update

The official campaign season has quieted down but we are still accepting commitments to the Renew Campaign! If you are still discerning your commitment but would like to commit, you can use one of the cards found around the church (and drop it in the offering) or you can commit online at renew.thirdrva.org/commit.

Then, plan to join us for worship on **Sunday, March 22 for Celebration Sunday**. Together, we'll celebrate all the commitments that have been made toward the campaign.



CLUB 56 RETREAT

WHEN: Friday, March 27, 6:00 p.m. –
Saturday, March 28, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Third Church

5th and 6th grade students are invited to the annual Club 56 retreat. We will gather for games, food, fellowship, and a great guest speaker. Our students will also experience quiet time in God's word. Invite friends to join you!

Sign up: thirdrva.org/events. Deadline: Monday, March 23.

Questions? Contact Andrea Woie (andreaw@thirdrva.org).



DISCOVERY CAMP

YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE

WHEN: June 22-25, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

This summer we will invite students to experience Discovery Camp: An Exploration of Art, Science, and Music! Campers will choose from 13 different interest areas, or classes, and will do a deep dive into them for each of the four days of camp. They'll choose from things like forensic science, dance, worship choir, production design, watercolor painting, and more! Our goal is to connect students to the idea that things they are interested in or have a talent for can be used for the glory of God.

Camp is for students who will be in rising 2nd–7th grades for Fall 2020 and registration opens in April. We will have a limited capacity so that our students will receive intentional and focused instruction in a small classroom setting.

*Make sure you're signed up for our emails to receive a link to register in April: **THIRDRVA.ORG/SIGNUP** and choose 'Family Ministry.'*

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES STARTING MARCH 15

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Sundays, March 15 – May 31 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 215

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.

SIGN UP FOR THE CLASS: *This class is offered for \$59/per person or \$99/per couple. Scholarships available! Contact Valerie Holland for scholarships or to learn more: valerieh@thirdrva.org (pre-registration is not required).*

** Please note that beginning March 22, each class will run from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. with childcare available for newborn – 6th grade.*

THE MISSION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Sundays, March 15 – May 31 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 215

What does the Bible have to tell us about why the people of God exist and what it is they are supposed to be and do the world? What is the mission of God's people? Join us for this missions Sunday school class, studying Chris Wright's book, *The Mission of God's People*. Together we will discover God's big-picture plan to direct the purpose of God's people, the church.

Chris Wright serves as the International Director of the Langham Partnership International. He is a renowned scholar and will be our speaker at Third's Mission Weekend (May 1–3). Buy your book ahead of time: thirdrva.org/events.

THURSDAY NIGHT CLASS

GUIDED TOUR OF THE BIBLE

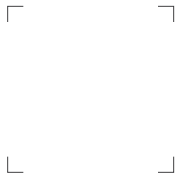
Thursdays, March 19 – April 30 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 217

A short, 5-week study focusing on the Revelation of John. We read on our own between classes, and gather in class to ask questions about what you've read, explore things you want to know more about, and learn from each other.

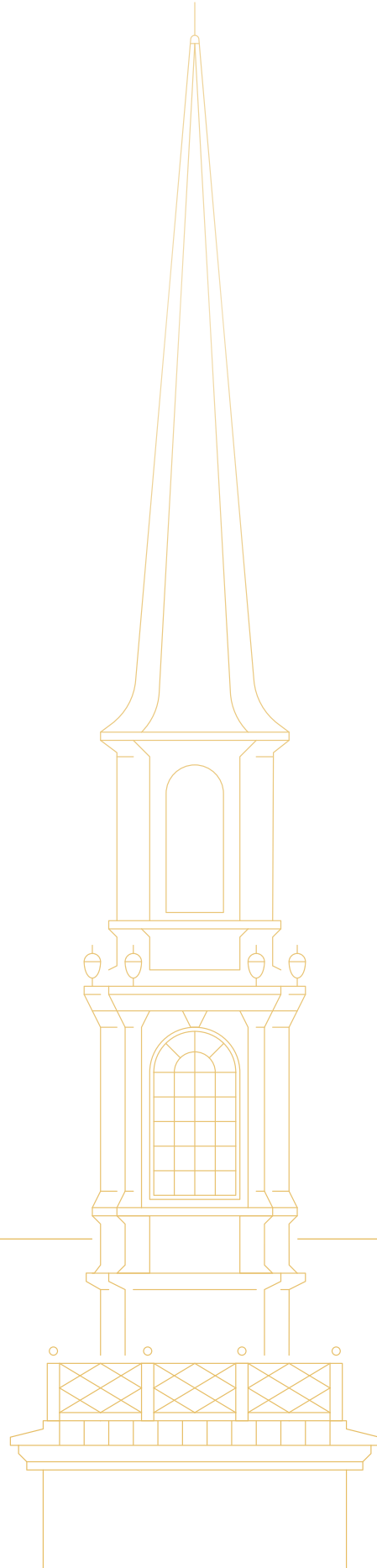
For more info, visit thirdrva.org/events.



THIRD CHURCH
500 FOREST AVE.
RICHMOND, VA 23229
(804) 282-4645



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



THIRDVA.ORG

April Third Press Deadline: Friday, March 13. Submit to: beccap@thirdva.org.