

# WELCOME!

## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

New here? Learn about Third on our website at [thirdrva.org](http://thirdrva.org) and sign up for our ministry emails at [thirdrva.org/signup](http://thirdrva.org/signup). Looking to get plugged in and find community? Find a parish group meeting near you at [thirdrva.org/parish-life](http://thirdrva.org/parish-life).

### PRELUDE | "FUGUE IN E-FLAT MAJOR" (J. S. BACH)

### CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM 1 TIMOTHY 3:16

- › Christ manifest in the flesh,
- › Christ revealed in the Spirit.
- » **Praise the Lord, all you nations!**
- › Christ contemplated by the angels,
- › Christ worshiped by the Magi.
- » **Praise the Lord, all you nations!**
- › Christ professed in the world,
- › Christ exalted in glory.
- » **Praise the Lord, all you nations!**

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

"ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY" 81

"GOD WITH US"

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- » **Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE | FROM ROMANS 8:31–39

- › Who then is the one who condemns?
- » **No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**
- › Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
- » **I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

GREETING OF PEACE

OUR OFFERINGS | FROM 1 CHRONICLES 29:14

- › Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?
- » **For all things come from you and what we now offer is already yours.**

OFFERTORY | “HOW GREAT OUR JOY” 90

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING | MATTHEW 1:18–2:23

SERMON | “WHAT HAPPENED AFTER CHRISTMAS” (STEPHANIE BLACK)

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

- › Christians, what do you believe?
- » **I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sits  
at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he shall come  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

- › Lift up your hearts!
- » **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- › Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- » **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
  
- › Holy and merciful God, our Father, you have made us in your image and for yourself. You have made this good world for us to tend and to enjoy.  
God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
  
- › You sought your ancient people when they strayed from you. You freed them from the oppressor and brought them home. God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
  
- › You have sent your Son to bring us home to you.  
By his Incarnation–
- » **You have found us.**
- › By his Death–
- » **You have forgiven us.**
- › By his Resurrection–
- » **You have freed us.**
- › God, our Father,
- » **Hear the praise of grateful hearts.**
  
- › In union with Jesus Christ of Nazareth, our Great High Priest, and with all who worship you, both in heaven and on earth, we offer you our praise, singing:
- » ***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he, blessed is he  
Who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

- › Holy and merciful God, our Father, send down your Holy Spirit on our bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and on your people, that we may be the body of Christ, reconciled to you and to each other by his blood. By your Holy Spirit make us—
- » **One with Christ, one with each other, and one in mission to all the world,**
- › Until Christ shall come in final victory and we feast together at his heavenly banquet. We cry,
- » **Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION | FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26

- › “The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

## FOR OUR GUESTS

The Lord’s Supper, or Communion, is one of the two sacraments we celebrate (the other is baptism). It’s 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 anyone to the table who is 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 FOR 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.

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

### 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.

## “IN REMEMBRANCE” (RED)

In remembrance of me, eat this bread.  
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.  
In remembrance of me, pray for the time  
When God’s own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick.  
In remembrance of me, feed the poor.  
In remembrance of me, open the door  
And let your brother in; let him in.

Take, eat, and be comforted.  
Drink, and remember, too,  
That this is my body and precious blood  
Shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth.  
In remembrance of me, always love.  
In remembrance of me, don’t look above  
But in your heart, in your heart,  
Look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.

## PASTORAL PRAYER 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.**

## “O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST” 405

### COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | FROM TITUS 2:11–13

- › The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly,
- » **While we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.**
- › Live now in the power of Christ,
- » **To the praise of his name!**

### POSTLUDE | “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL” (MICHAEL BURKHARDT)

# PRAYER NEEDS

## FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Please be praying for our mission partner Myrna McLaughlin with Least of These Ministries as she leads this ministry in rural Zimbabwe to evangelize and help supply food, medication, and first aid training to those in need.

## FOR OUR CITY

Please be praying to overcome in Christ's name the heritage of racism: for racial reconciliation, healing, and justice in metropolitan Richmond; for an end to all personal and structural racial prejudice and discrimination.

## FOR HEALTH

Evi Burgin, Don Floyd, Dabney Harvey, Linda Ludlow, Evelyn Jennings, Susan Higgins, Bette Phillips, Elaine Turner, Stephanie Brooks, Beatrice White, Jinny Bartlett, Heather Moret, Liz Slate, Tom Morgan, Carolyn Oakley, Christie Geraty

## FOR THOSE GRIEVING LOSS

Karen Perry (father, 11/23); Barbara Romanello (brother, 11/6); Melissa Lincoln (husband, Abe 11/12); Mary Cox (husband, Gene 11/9); Rene Shouse (brother, 11/7); Agnes Smith (sister, 10/1); Jeff Price (wife, Gloria 9/24); Christi Hancock (mother, Jackie Cozens 9/21); Roseanne Adams and Melissa Yacher (mother and grandmother, Ruth Anne Blakely 9/18); Betty Wingo (9/17); Carl Cunningham (father, 9/16); Fitch and Rivers families (son, brother, and grandson, John 9/14)

## BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

McKenna Ballard . . . . . 12/7  
Elliot Pendleton "Penn" Cave, Jr 10/27  
Holland Joy Henry . . . . . 10/10  
Levi Elliot Sawyer . . . . . 8/24  
Samuel Sainz Bond . . . . . 8/15  
Clara Garland Patrick . . . . . 7/23  
Emercy Ann Anthony . . . . . 7/8  
Sophie Moon Babcock . . . . . 7/8

## DEATHS

Abe Lincoln . . . . . 11/12  
Gene Cox . . . . . 11/9  
Gloria Price . . . . . 9/24  
Jackie Cozens . . . . . 9/21  
Ruth Anne Blakely . . . . . 9/18  
Betty Wingo . . . . . 9/17  
John Fitch . . . . . 9/14

# NEWS & EVENTS

## NEXT WEEK: NEW YEAR BRUNCH

Plan to join us outside next Sunday, January 9, at 10:00 in the parking lot between worship services for coffee, snacks, fire-pits, and a chance to catch up with your church community after the holidays. No adult Sunday school classes will be meeting.

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## BARNABAS TRAINING BASIC

*February 12, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

Learn how to better encourage friends facing difficult times in life and faith through this interactive and informative workshop from the Barnabas Center.

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## NEWCOMERS CLASS: NEXT CLASS BEGINS SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

Interested in learning more about Third, or considering joining as a Covenant Partner? Come to our Newcomers Class and learn more about being a part of our community and what we believe!

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## THEOLOGICAL CONVERSATIONS

*Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. – 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31*

This class meets every other Thursday evening to address the theological questions of the group and explore Third's theological foundation. Join in person or on Zoom.

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For more information and to register for these events, scan the QR codes above or visit [thirdva.org/events](https://thirdva.org/events) to see all upcoming events.

# NOTES