

# Welcome!

We're glad you're here.

Stop by the Welcome Desk downstairs to learn more about Third Church, find ways to connect to our community, and ask any questions that you may have.

## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM PSALM 118

- › Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
- » **His love endures forever.**
- › Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
- » **The stone the builder rejected has become the capstone;  
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- › This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- » **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

"ALMIGHTY GOD"

"GREAT ARE YOU, LORD"

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- » **Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify  
your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT | FROM ROMANS 8:1-2, 11

› There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life sets us free from the law of sin and death. And if the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us, God who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through the Spirit, who lives in us.

» **Thanks be to God!**

GREETING OF PEACE



Let us know you're here today and how we can pray for you!

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.**

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

“GLORIA PATRI”

SCRIPTURE READING | ECCLESIASTES 3:16-4:4

SERMON | “THE SCANDAL OF INJUSTICE” (COREY WIDMER)

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*

### 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.

“IS HE WORTHY?”

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.**

“DOXOLOGY”

COMMISSION AND BLESSING | FROM 2 PETER 3:11–13

- › Let us live holy and godly lives as we look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.
- » **But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where justice and righteousness dwell.**

POSTLUDE

# The Ten O'Clock Hour

Join us between our morning services today to grab some coffee or tea downstairs and visit with a friend. Also, consider attending one of the classes listed below:

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## **People of the Word: Exodus**

*Led by Kyle Frayser, Gary Van Brocklin, Paul White and Dave Beckmann*

Join us for a deep study of the book of Exodus and the story of a holy God's pursuit, deliverance and establishment of his chosen people.

**CLASSROOM A/B**

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## **Discover the Bible: Sermon on the Mount**

*Led by Rick Hutton and Becky Bowers*

This class will explore the central teachings of Jesus found in Matthew 5-7. This is an open and casual group discussion-based class for all ages.

**CLASSROOM C/D**

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## **Delta: Young Adults**

*Led by Drew Cleveland*

Join us as we explore a vision for life with God in this unique season of life. College age/20-30s, singles and couples are welcome.

**CLASSROOM H**

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## **The Generous Life**

*Led by Craig Heah and Erin Burlew*

Using the book *Practicing the King's Economy* as our guide, we will explore the way of Jesus and how we earn, spend, save, and give our money, time and talents.

**CLASSROOM G**

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## **Metamorphosis: Making Sense of God**

*Led by Gina Maio and Tom Ebel*

Join this safe community of curious souls for an open and honest conversation about faith, doubt, and Tim Keller's book *Making Sense of God*.

**CLASSROOM I**

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# Third Kids

Each Sunday we offer childcare during the services for infants through kindergarten; older kids worship with their parents. Then at 10:00 a.m. we have a dedicated Sunday school hour where our kids meet in age-specific classrooms to learn, sing, and read the Bible together.

## CHILDCARE

8:45 AND 11:00 A.M.

During our worship services, childcare is available for children *kindergarten and younger*.

**Infants, Toddlers, and Little Lambs** are in their dedicated classrooms.

**Little Lions—Kindergarten** are meeting in the Little Lions classroom.

### FOLLOWING THE 8:45 SERVICE

If you are planning to attend Sunday school after the service, your child will be escorted to their assigned classroom. Please notify your teacher on the sign-in sheet that your child will be attending Sunday school!

If you are not attending Sunday school, please pick up your children as soon as the service ends.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 A.M.

All our Sunday school classes take place at 10:00 a.m.

- Infants through fourth grade: check your child in on the first floor.
- Grades 5–6: meet in the Club 56 room on the first floor.
- Grades 7–12: meet in the Student Ministry Lounge (Room E) on the second floor.

## FAMILY ROOM

Looking for a private and quiet space to nurse your infant? Check out the Family Room on the first floor. Families with strollers can use the elevator by the Prayer Room, in the back corner of our space.

# Prayer Needs

## FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Please be praying for Needle’s Eye Ministries as they seek to build connections between business professionals and matters of faith and to encourage men and women to impact our community with Christ’s values, ethics and love.

## FOR OUR CITY

We pray for public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in metropolitan Richmond: for all in need of social services, all social service departments and caseworkers; for partnerships between the church and other institutions serving the needy.

## FOR HEALTH

Randee Massey, Sarah Hale, Ian Woie, Karen Tatti, Juan Ledon, Patrick Wallace, Jim Slate, Bill Payne, Elaine Metcalf, Al Foster, Evi Burgin, Elaine Turner, Stephanie Brooks

## FOR THOSE GRIEVING LOSS

Will and Elisabeth Hayes (son, 9/12); Tom Hayes (mother, 8/18); Kim Gordon (father, 7/10); Kim Garrett (mother, 7/6); Marybeth Lawrence (husband, 6/26); Karen Tatti (sister, 6/15); Mary Morgan (husband Tom, 5/31)

## BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Lily Marie Northcutt. . . . . 9/23  
June Marie Henry . . . . . 9/9  
Elisabeth Louise (Libbie) Bowman .. 9/7  
Wilder Valor Allen. . . . . 8/23  
Novian Lamont Mattox. . . . . 8/19  
Ruby James Bruce . . . . . 8/6  
Emmaline Kate Sadler. . . . . 8/1

## DEATHS

Ann Kooiman . . . . . 7/30  
Mary Ann Hancock. . . . . 7/21  
Tom Morgan. . . . . 5/31  
Elizabeth Flanary. . . . . 4/14

We rejoice in the birth of **Lily Marie Northcutt** on September 23, 2023 to Lauren and LeGrand Northcutt. Please join us in praying for this family!



# News & Events

## **NEXT WEEK! SUNDAY FORUM**

*October 8, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary*

We'll take a break from our regular Sunday School classes for adults to meet together in our worship space to hear from licensed counselor Claire Lewis on rupture and repair in relationships.

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## **MEXICO MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING**

*October 22, 12:15 p.m., Classroom C/D*

We're organizing an all-ages (10 years old and up!) mission trip to Mexico this summer, June 30 – July 6. Come to this interest meeting to hear more about what we'll be doing.

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## **WE'RE HIRING! ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT MINISTRY**

We're looking for someone to help lead our Student Ministry and Club 56 ministries, specifically focusing on the discipleship of our male students. Find the job description and how to apply online.

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## **WOMEN OF VALOR PRAYER GROUP**

*Saturday, October 14, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.*

A new prayer group open to all women, especially encouraging single women and moms, those going through separation/divorce, or anyone who wants to pray in community to join. Childcare provided with registration.

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## **RESOURCE FAIR WITH HENRICO COUNTY ADULT LEARNING CENTER**

*Wednesday, October 11, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.*

We're partnering with our Regency neighbor, the Henrico County Adult Learning Center, to host this Resource Fair that will connect our immigrant neighbors to the many agencies and ministries in our area that can help meet their needs. Learn more and sign up to volunteer online.

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

# Notes





