

WELCOME!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

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

PRELUDE | "BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE ISABELLA"; "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

» Sing together:

Come, oh come. Come, oh come.

Come, oh come to us.

CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM PSALM 24:7-10

- › Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up,
you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
- » **Who is this King of glory?**
- › The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
- » **Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up,
you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**
- › Who is he, this King of glory?
- » **The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

"CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT" 71

"LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE" 821

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- » **Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor's needs and do not love you above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

- › The Lord, the Light of light descended and vanquished the powers of hell on the cross. He will come again to clear the gloom of hell away.
- » **Thanks be to God!**

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.**

MISSION PARTNER INTERVIEW WITH PAUL SYDNOR

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING | MATTHEW 1-5B; RUTH 1:16-17

SERMON | "MOTHERS OF JESUS: RUTH" (JENNIFER PARHAM)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

"GOD WITH US"

"SOON AND VERY SOON"

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | EPHESIANS 3:16-19

- › I pray that out of the Father's glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
- » **So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**
- › And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp
- » **How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,**
- › And to know this love that surpasses knowledge—
- » **That you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

POSTLUDE | "FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME" (MICHAEL BEDFORD)

PRAYER NEEDS

FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Please be praying for our mission partner Carolyn Rennie in her ministry of care and discipleship in Romania. She works to maintain outreach through English courses and special activities for both children and adults.

FOR OUR CITY

Please be praying for persons in financial need in metropolitan Richmond: for the homeless and the hungry; for the provision of safe, affordable housing and low-cost nutritious food; for the personal safety, dignity, and well-being of those who are unable to work.

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

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
Emery 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Classes are at 10:00 a.m. and are open to all. Today marks the final week of classes.

ON BEING HUMAN

- ABOUT** A class on sexuality, gender, and human identity and purpose.
- LOCATION** Fellowship Hall
- LEADERS** Scott Armistead, Mark Sprinkle, Missy DeRegibus,
Drew Cleveland, Derek Mondeau
-

ENCOURAGEMENT AND TESTIMONY OF GOD'S TRUE GRACE

- ABOUT** Expository teaching of 1 Peter and topics of separation, suffering, persecution, hope, courage, and above all, the true grace of God.
- LOCATION** Room 213/215
- LEADERS** David Carroll and David Skove
-

THE OTHER HALF OF CHURCH

- ABOUT** A provocative discussion of *The Other Half of Church* and the missing ingredients for transformational spiritual growth.
- LOCATION** Multi-Purpose Room, 500 Forest Avenue
- LEADER** Mary Damon
-

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

- ABOUT** A class on the transformational power of the gospel to shape every aspect of our lives.
- LOCATION** 2nd Floor Conference Room, 500 Forest Avenue
- LEADER** Derek Mondeau

NEWS & EVENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THIRD

Friday, December 24, 3:30, 5:00, 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.

Join us on Christmas Eve to celebrate the newborn King! Services will be in the Sanctuary, with a masked option in the Fellowship Hall, as well as livestreamed. Nursery care is available for ages 2 and younger during first two services.



ADVENT PRAYER GATHERINGS & GUIDES

During the season of Advent, we are praying together at noon three days a week—Mondays and Fridays on Zoom, and Wednesdays in-person in the Sanctuary. Get Zoom links and prayer prompts in advance by scanning the QR code or visiting thirdrva.org.



BARNABAS TRAINING BASIC

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

Better encourage friends facing difficult times in life and faith through this interactive and informative workshop from the Barnabas Center. Early pricing (\$95 including lunch) ends December 20.



IMPORTANT WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Please be aware that we will not have in person worship services on Sunday, December 26. After another challenging year, we are giving our staff and Sunday volunteers time to rest and be with their families and loved ones. We will provide an at-home worship guide with pre-recorded message for all who would like to gather in homes, either with your household or with other friends and family, to worship.

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Over the past few weeks we've been sharing about our current financial outlook as we close out 2021. In November, we shared that we were anticipating a \$310,000 shortfall for our year-end budget. At that time, we also asked our community to help us try to meet this shortfall and many of you have responded.

We're grateful to share that November givings were 7.5% over budget! Our ministry expenses were down again, this time by 50%, but our operating expenses were over budget due to facility expenses including HVAC repair and building maintenance. In total, we are glad to report that we had a net income of \$79k in November! While we are still projecting a deficit for 2021, it has narrowed from \$310k to \$280k.

Thank you to all who have and will continue to give faithfully to our church. We will continue to keep you updated on our financial situation and any responses and impact to our ministries.

| | | NOVEMBER YTD \$2,947,560 | BUDGET \$3,779,103 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2021 TOTAL GIVING REVENUE | | | |
| 2021 NET INCOME | | | |
| YTD LOSS \$416,992 | PROJECTED LOSS \$280,339 | BUDGET \$0 | |

WHAT ARE WE ASKING OF YOU?

Pray for God's provision for our church, and that the work of ministry and mission that he desires for us would be accomplished.

If you are currently giving to our church, thank you and please continue to do so!

If God has especially prospered you over the past 18 months, would you consider giving generously toward making up this end-of-year shortfall?