

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 113

- › Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, you his servants; praise the name of the LORD.
- » **Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore.**
- › From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised. The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.
- » **Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?**
- › He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.
- » **Praise the LORD!**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

"THE LORD'S PRAYER (IT'S YOURS)"

"PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY"

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 | FROM PSALM 103:11-13

- › For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him.
- » **As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**
- › As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.
- » **Thanks be to God!**

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (11:00 SERVICE)

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.**

“THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT”

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING | PHILEMON 1-7

SERMON | “GRACE CHANGES US” (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, 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,**

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.

- › 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.”

“HOW BEAUTIFUL” (PARIS, ARR. GREER)

How beautiful the hands that served
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful the feet that walked
The long, dusty roads and the hill to the cross.
How beautiful, how beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the heart that bled,
That took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes
That chose to forgive and never despise.
How beautiful, how beautiful,
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

And as he laid down his life
We offer this sacrifice:
That we will live just as he died,
Willing to pay the price.

How beautiful the radiant bride
Who waits for her Groom with his light in her eyes.
How beautiful when humble hearts give
The fruit of pure lives so that others may live.

How beautiful the feet that bring
The sound of good news and the love of the King!
How beautiful the hands that serve
The wine and the bread and the sons of the earth!
How beautiful is the body of Christ!

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"

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | FROM TITUS 2:11-14

- › For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "no" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- » **He gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**

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. **Visit the Prayer Room** (Classroom F upstairs) to begin your year with prayer, and plan to attend one of the following classes next week:

People of the Word: Exodus (RESUMING NEXT WEEK)

Led by Kyle Frayser, Gary VanBrocklin, 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

Discover the Bible: Galatians (BEGINNING NEXT WEEK)

Led by Becky Bowers and Rick Hutton

This class will explore the letter of Galatians and the freedom we have in Christ. This is an open and casual group discussion-based class for all ages.

CLASSROOM C/D

Missions & Prayer (BEGINNING NEXT WEEK)

Led by the Missions Team

Join us for stories and current questions from mission partners and faithful saints as we learn to pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

CLASSROOM G

Intergenerational Wisdom (BEGINNING NEXT WEEK)

Led by Drew Cleveland

In our intergenerational church family, there is so much to learn from one another's experiences of the world and God's grace. Join us as we hear a different story from a different generation each week.

CLASSROOM H

Metamorphosis: On Loneliness (BEGINNING NEXT WEEK)

Led by Gina Maio and Tom Ebel

Join this safe community of curious souls for an open and honest conversation about loneliness, centered on Dr. Mark Mayfield's *The Path Out of Loneliness: Finding and Fostering Connection to God, Ourselves and One Another*.

CLASSROOM I (DOWNSTAIRS)

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.
- Kids fifth grade and up are encouraged to attend the prayer experience with their families upstairs in Classroom F.

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 Least of These Ministries in Zimbabwe, founded by Myrna McLaughlin. Ask God to bless the efforts of Pastor Jesse as he seeks to meet the spiritual and physical needs of people and provide them with agricultural training. Ask God’s blessing upon the nation of Zimbabwe as churches work hard to meet the many desperate physical and social needs of their people.

FOR OUR CITY

We pray 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, beginning with what is in our own hearts.

FOR HEALTH

Erik Hendrickson, Susan Barr, Richard Brooks, Emily Oostdyk, Mary Hale, Ian Woie, Karen Tatti, Juan Ledon, Patrick Wallace, Bill Payne, Elaine Metcalf, Elaine Turner, Stephanie Brooks

FOR THOSE GRIEVING LOSS

Parker Hale (father, 12/8); Alex Bruce (mother, 12/1);
Brennan Morrisett (mother, 11/9), Mason Robinson (wife, Jean, 11/9)

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Eva Hargrave Cave 12/7
Andrew Berkley Frere 11/13
Lucy Hansen Ballard 10/31
Lilly Jael Sawyer 10/26
Margaret Richmond Mattingly 10/1

DEATHS

Evi Burgin 12/4
Gordon Sandridge 11/11
Jean Robinson 11/9

News & Events

TODAY! SERVICE OF ORDINATION FOR ELISABETH HAYES

2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us as we affirm and celebrate Elisabeth's call to pastoral ministry as the Assistant Pastor of Parish Life and Mission. Reception to follow.



JOIN OUR MASS CHOIR FOR "TOTAL PRAISE"

On February 11 a newly formed mass choir will lead our church in a song of praise from the Black American church. We need many voices of all ages, so please join us. Rehearsals on February 3 and 10 from 9:00–10:30 a.m.



BIRDS & BEES

Saturday, January 20, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We're talking about *the talk!* Learn practical steps on how to begin and continue this conversation throughout the childhood of our kids. Content geared toward parents with young kids. Sign up online (free!).



BARNABAS TRAINING BASIC WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 10, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join the counselors from the Barnabas Center for this important and helpful workshop on how to have deeper conversations with others, especially over the struggles of life. Register online, scholarships available.



SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Mark your calendars! This year Vacation Bible School will be held June 10–14. Registration will open in the coming months.

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

Notes



