

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

CALL TO WORSHIP | FROM ISAIAH 2 AND 11

- › We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Advent means coming.
- » **We are preparing ourselves for the days
when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;**
- › Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
- » **The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard with the goat,**
- › The calf and the lion and the yearling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- » **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

“CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT”

“LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE”

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 good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.
- » **Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | ADELINE KRIEGER (11:00 SERVICE)

Adeline Hope Krieger is the child of Steve and Lindsay Krieger. Lauren Earley is representing the Session as the elder holding the font, and Justin Earley is the prayer sponsor.

» **Sing together:**

*The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine upon you,
And give you peace, and give you peace,
And give you peace forever!*

Please pray for these parents as they seek to raise their child in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

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.**

OFFERTORY | "I BELIEVE THIS IS JESUS" (SPIRITUAL; ARR. MOORE)

I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see.
The light of God shines in his face; he offers all his pardoning grace.
I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see.
Oh, I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see.

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING | ISAIAH 40:1-11

SERMON | "THE PROMISE OF COMFORT" (RICK HUTTON)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We respond together:

› Lord, in your mercy,

» **Hear our 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.

"COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

› God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.

» **When they are troubled, we will be able to give them
the same comfort God has given us.**

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:

Advent Hymns

Led by Dave Skove and Bill Payne

The four hymns of Luke—the Magnificat of Mary, the Benedictus of Zechariah, the Gloria In Excelsis Deo of the heavenly host, and the Nunc Dimittis of Simeon—have inspired composers for centuries. Come join us as we explore how some more recent composers have put these glorious and beloved Advent words to music!

CLASSROOM A/B

Discover the Bible: Advent

Led by Rick Hutton and Becky Bowers

Explore the biblical stories of preparation and waiting for Jesus' birth during this Advent season. This is an open and casual group discussion-based class. All ages are welcome!

CLASSROOM C/D

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 Paul and Reinhild Sydnor in France, for their ministry to refugees. Pray for the refugee center they've been able to begin in Lille. Pray for them as they come alongside refugees in their community and beyond as they provide love, support, counsel, and Bible education.

FOR OUR CITY

We pray 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

Emily Oostdyk, Mallory Ballard, Tom Ebel, Mary Hale, Kathy White, Ian Woie, Karen Tatti, Juan Ledon, Patrick Wallace, Bill Payne, Elaine Metcalf, Evi Burgin, Elaine Turner, Stephanie Brooks

FOR THOSE GRIEVING LOSS

Alex Bruce (mother, 12/1); Brennan Morrisett (mother, 11/9), Mason Robinson (wife, Jean, 11/9); Linda Foster (husband, Al, 10/22); Brad Houff (mother, 9/13); Will and Elisabeth Hayes (son, 9/12); Tom Hayes (mother, 8/18)

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Andrew Berkley Frere	11/13
Lucy Hansen Ballard	10/31
Lilly Jael Sawyer	10/26
Margaret Richmond Mattingly	10/1
Lily Marie Northcutt.	9/23
June Marie Henry	9/9
Elisabeth Louise (Libbie) Bowman	9/7

DEATHS

Gordon Sandridge	11/11
Jean Robinson	11/9
Ann Kooiman	7/30
Mary Ann Hancock.	7/21
Tom Morgan.	5/31
Elizabeth Flanary.	4/14

News & Events

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24, at 11:00 a.m., 3:30, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate with us in our Sanctuary at Regency. Communion will be served at the 7:00 p.m. service. Childcare for 4 and younger available for first three services. Reservation needed for care at 3:30 or 5:00 service: blairb@thirdrva.org.

LECTIO DIVINA: A WEEKLY ADVENT PRACTICE ONLINE

Mondays, December 11 and 18, 12:00–12:30 p.m.

The practice of *Lectio Divina* is a contemplative approach to reading Scripture that emphasizes listening and receiving rather than analyzing and discussing. For the Mondays of Advent, gather on Zoom with Corey Widmer to practice this ancient act together.



NOW HIRING! DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

We're seeking a leader who will execute the vision for missions at Third by mobilizing the congregation in personal missional engagement and support and engage Mission Partners. Learn more at thirdrva.org/employment.



END-OF-YEAR OFFICE HOURS

Our office will be closed on Monday–Tuesday, December 25–26, and will close for the year at noon on Friday, December 29. Any tithes sent to Third should be postmarked by December 31, or hand delivered by noon on Friday, December 29.

CAN YOU SERVE IN OUR NURSERIES ON CHRISTMAS EVE?

We need your help to be able to offer childcare to our youngest ones on Christmas Eve! One-hour commitments, teenagers welcome.



HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN

Friday–Saturday, December 15–16, 8:00 p.m.–8:00 a.m.

Join the high school student ministry for 12 hours of fun, food and fellowship. Invite friends! Sign up online.



Budget Update

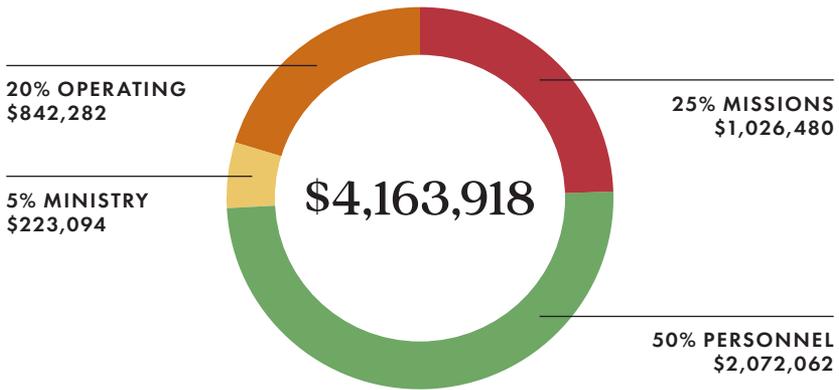
2023 BUDGET NEEDS

In order to finish the year strong and position us well for 2024, we are relying on gifts in December to make up **20% of total projected giving** for the year.



We are in need of and praying for gifts totaling nearly **\$800K before the end of the year** to meet our 2023 budget projection. We invite you to consider including Third in your giving this season. As always, we continue to thank God for his faithful provision and trust that he will continue to meet our every need.

2024 BUDGET OVERVIEW



We are inviting our church family to offer their financial faith commitments for the coming year. Pick up a commitment card around the church to drop in the offering plate, mail to the office, or give online at thirdrva.org/faith-commitment.

For more information, contact Geof Stiff, Treasurer and Elder (stiffgs1@gmail.com) or Ed Satterfield, Executive Pastor (eds@thirdrva.org).