

Celebration Sunday



THIRD CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP | PSALM 96:1-4

- › Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- » **Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.**
- › Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- » **For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

“JESUS, THE MIGHTY ONE”

“CHRIST IS LOWER STILL”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- › Let us come with humble and repentant hearts to the Lord.
- » **We all, like sheep, have gone astray.
Each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF COMFORT | 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



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 | "BE THOU MY VISION" (SHACKLEY)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower;
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
Thou my inheritance, now and always.
Thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING | ROMANS 8:26-30

SERMON | "GOD MAKES EVERYTHING GOOD" (COREY WIDMER)

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.**

"RENEW US"

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION | ST. PATRICK, 5TH CENTURY

- › May the strength of God pilot us. May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us.
May the way of God direct us. May the shield of God defend us. May the host of God guard us against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world.
- » **May Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ in us, Christ over us. May your salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and forevermore. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Join the Celebration!

Join us downstairs between services to formally celebrate the conclusion of the Renew campaign.

We are so thankful for all of the gifts and prayers that have been offered to this campaign to finish the renovation of our church home at 600 Forest Avenue. We're excited to see God at work in our church during this campaign and look forward to witnessing how he will use this renewal of our hearts and our home for his glory.

Sunday school for adults and Kindergarten and older will not meet this week and will resume next week.

Today, childcare will be available for children Kindergarten and younger for the entire morning.

- **Infants, Toddlers, and Little Lambs** are in their dedicated classrooms.
- **Little Lions–Kindergarten** are meeting in the Little Lions classroom.

If you are planning to attend today's celebration after the first service, your child will be escorted to their assigned classroom.

If you're 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.

“It has been a true privilege to be on the Renew leadership team these past almost five years.

This journey has increased our faith and allowed us to experience new friendships and to see God move many, many people, transforming hearts to be generous—including many who increased their pledges as they continued to pray. As he has done with Third over and over again during these past several decades, our amazing Creator has shown himself to be a God of abundance and mercy with Third. We are so excited and encouraged!”



Rob and Kathie Cox

CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

“We could not be more thankful for the way the Renew campaign has allowed us to see more of God and more of Third Church.

We’ve seen more of how committed our people are, how generous in spirit they are, how faithful they are to give their time, and how excited they are about the mission of our church. We’ve also seen the faithfulness of God’s provision, his presence in our work, and the insistent way he keeps working in the lives of our people. If we ever wanted more evidence that God is alive and at work in his people, this Renew campaign has been it. We feel more connected to this community than ever before, all by saying yes to work on a capital campaign, of all things. God is good.”



Lauren and Justin Earley

CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

Prayer Needs

FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Please be praying for Haiti Outreach Ministries. Please keep the students, the girls at the orphanage, and the HOM staff in your prayers and pray for peace in Haiti amidst political unrest, gang violence, and significant poverty.

FOR OUR CITY

We pray for the power of the resurrection to transform metropolitan Richmond: for humility, respect, and appreciation of the gifts and contributions of all.

FOR HEALTH

Betty Schwarten, Vickie O’Dell, Margaret Leith, Greg Ellen, Patrice Foster, Jean Sommerville, Judy Duarte, Susan Barr, Ian Woie, Karen Tatti, Juan Ledon, Patrick Wallace, Bill Payne, Elaine Metcalf, Elaine Turner, Stephanie Brooks

FOR THOSE GRIEVING LOSS

Randy Harrison (mother, 2/21); Holly Smith (father, 2/13); Barbara Romanello (husband, 2/8); Jesse Kell (father, 1/4); Glenn Davis (mother, 1/4); Parker Hale (father, 12/8); Alex Bruce (mother, 12/1)

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Caleb Daniel Olson 3/5
Thomas Jennings Hiltz 3/2
Peter Scott Copeland 2/27
Charles Hunter Brady Williams . . . 2/16

DEATHS

Evi Burgin 12/4

News & Events

DONATE EASTER LILIES FOR THE SANCTUARY

Donate a lily to help us decorate our Sanctuary for Easter. Donations can be made in honor or memory of a loved one. Contact Rebecca Hatton to donate (\$20): rebeccah@thirdrva.org.

WOMEN'S SPRING GATHERING

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m., Regency

Share a meal with the women of Third, and hear from three covenant partners who lead impactful nonprofits in our community. Sign up online and bring a dish to share.



YOUNG ADULT: LUNCH AND PICKLEBALL

Sunday, March 24, 12:30 p.m.

Looking to connect with other young people at Third? Join us for lunch and pickleball at a nearby home right after the second service. Sign up online.



EXPLORING COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

Friday and Saturday, April 12-13

Looking to invest in community at Third and considering joining as a covenant partner? Join this class! More info, full schedule, and registration online.



MARRIAGE WORKSHOP WITH MIRIAM BOTT

Saturday, April 20, 9:30 a.m. - Noon, Regency

Join counselor Miriam Bott for a marriage workshop where we look at small, tangible ways to cultivate connection weekly that will make a big impact on your relationship. More info and registration online.



SUNDAY FORUM AND LUNCH WITH KAITLYN SCHIESS

Sunday, April 7, 10:00 a.m. for forum, 12:30 p.m. for lunch

Author and speaker Kaitlyn Schiess will be with us on April 7 to share on spiritual formation, the tension of politics and the big picture of God's kingdom to prepare us for this national election year.

WE'RE HIRING!

We have positions open for the roles of Facility Manager and Associate Director of Student Ministry. Apply online at thirdrva.org/employment.



HOLY WEEK

Join us to experience Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through his judgment, suffering and crucifixion, and ultimately to his triumph over the grave.

PALM SUNDAY: A SERVICE OF PALMS AND PASSION

Next Sunday, March 24, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Together, we'll wave palms in the opening of our service and responsively read through the entire Passion of Jesus, from his entry into Jerusalem to his grave. This special service is a new way we're approaching Palm Sunday, and will help set the tone for us to enter into Holy Week as a community.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: A COMMUNION SERVICE IN THE ROUND

Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Our Sanctuary space will be rearranged to set this service in the round with the communion table at the center. The service will feature multiple opportunities to sing together. Come share in the gifts of God for the people of God.

GOOD FRIDAY: MIDDAY PRAYER

Friday, March 29, 12:00 p.m., First Floor of Regency

Join us for this simple midday service of silence, prayer, and Scripture reading, meditating on the suffering and death of Jesus using the tradition of the Stations of the Cross.

GOOD FRIDAY ART INSTALLATION AND PRAYER

Friday, March 29, 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The first floor of our Regency space will be open, with an installation of artist Scott Erickson's "Seven Last Sayings" of Jesus on the cross. Come and contemplate Jesus' crucifixion and receive prayer.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31, Services at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

All of our faith and all of our hope rests on this: the Resurrection. Join us in the celebration on Easter Sunday, for the Lamb has conquered death, triumphed over evil, and reigns in victory! This is the good news and we are invited into this joy together. We will not have any Sunday school classes on Easter Sunday, but childcare will be available for kindergarten and younger during all services. *Treats and coffee will be served in the mall atrium between services!*