

# 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, 11, AND 40

- › 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.
- » **Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**
- › Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
- » **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

"COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS"

"GOD WITH US"

"SOON AND VERY SOON"

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- › O promised Christ: We are a world at war.
- » **Our peace depends on your coming.**
- › We are a sinful people.
- » **Our pardon depends on your coming.**
- › We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises.
- » **Our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it.**
- › Lord Christ, Word made flesh,
- » **Our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE | FROM LUKE 24, PSALM 52

- › Peace be with you, for the Messiah suffered and was raised for the repentance and forgiveness of sins.
- » **We trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever. 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.**

## OFFERTORY | "SING WE NOEL" (GOEMANNE)

Sing we noel, noel, noel, noel, noel; sing we noel!

Christ was born for us today; love and peace be here to stay.

Now we raise to heaven our voice. Sing we now; rejoice, rejoice!

Sing we noel, noel, noel, noel, noel; sing we noel!

Mary, now filled with heavenly joy: "Emmanuel" she named the boy.

Heaven is near; "O do not fear," the angel said. "The Christ is here!"

Heaven came to earth; he saved us by his birth.

O mighty Child, O King of kings, the universe in praise now sings.

Sing we noel, noel, noel, noel, noel; sing we noel!

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING | ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

SERMON | "JOY IN THE WAITING " (COREY WIDMER)

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.**

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

COMMISSION AND BLESSING | FROM PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

- › Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all.
- » **The Lord is near.**

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 these classes:

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## **Advent Hymns**

*Led by Dave Skove and Bill Payne*

Six hundred years of Christmas music—you won't want to miss this class during which we will listen to Christmas music from throughout the centuries and around the world. Some you may recognize, but some might well be new!

**CLASSROOM B**

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## **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**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 31**

### **New Year Prayer Room Experience**

*Sunday, December 31 and January 7, 10:00 a.m.*

For two Sundays at the beginning of the year, we will be offering a self-guided prayer experience in the Prayer Room (Classroom F upstairs). Pause and begin your year with prayer.

### **Sunday School for Kids Through Fourth Grade**

We will continue to hold our regular Sunday school for Little Lambs through fourth grade at 10:00 a.m. Kids fifth grade and up are encouraged to attend the prayer experience with their families.

# 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 Gregg and Kathryn Donley with WEC International. Gregg travels to Jordan, Greece, Turkey, Lebanon and Germany and is involved in evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, aid distribution and developing church-planting ministries among various refugee populations in numerous locations. Their ministry goal is to educate and mobilize the Church in the Muslim world.

## FOR OUR CITY

We pray for persons in financial need in metropolitan Richmond: for healthy relationships; for constructive, safe, and caring households for the bringing up and nurturing of children and caring for the elderly.

## FOR HEALTH

Emily Oostdyk, Mallory Ballard, Mary Hale, Kathy White, 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 Morrissett (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

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

Gordon Sandridge . . . . . 11/11  
Jean Robinson . . . . . 11/9

We rejoice in the birth of **Eva Hargrave Cave** December 7, 2023 to Elliot and Darden Cave and big brother Penn. Please join us in praying for this family!

# 2023 Budget Update

## MAKE AN END-OF-YEAR GIFT TO THIRD

Each year, we rely on generous giving in December in order to meet our projected budget for the year. As of this week, we are in need of and praying for gifts totaling nearly \$575K, or 14% of total projected giving for the year, before the end of the month to meet our 2023 budget projection.

YEAR-TO-DATE ACTUAL GIVING  
86%

14%

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.

Please mail your gifts to the church office at 500 Forest Avenue, Henrico, VA 23229, or you can give online at [thirdva.org/give](https://thirdva.org/give).

*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.*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

# Christmas Eve

Join us at one of four Christmas Eve services

11AM | 3:30PM | 5PM | 7PM

Celebrate Christmas Eve 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](mailto:blairb@thirdrva.org).

## 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.



## NOW HIRING

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS AND TUTORING PROGRAM COORDINATOR

We're seeking two leaders who will help execute the vision for missions—our **Director of Missions**, and our **Program Coordinator for Immigrant and Refugee Tutoring**. Learn more about these positions online.

## MASS CHOIR: "TOTAL PRAISE"

On Sunday, February 11, a newly formed mass choir will lead our church in a song of praise, entitled "Total Praise," from the Black American church. We need many voices, so please join us. Rehearsals on February 3 and 10.

