The Worship of God December 7, 2025 • 11:00 AM



Peter Paul Rubens - The Miraculous Draught of Fishes - 1619



The Worship of God December 7, 2025

Please use this opportunity to silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices.

* = Please stand in body or spirit

This is a day for celebration – celebration on several fronts: the finale to our 175th anniversary year, the monthly observance of The Lord's Supper, our Advent preparation for the Holy Birth, and – appropriately – the naming of a new child in our congregation that reminds us of the Church's continuing renewal. In addition to the customary elements of our communion service we will hear new words from an old friend, Dr. Warren Hoffmann, who previously served Third as its pastor. It is only fitting that such an occasion as this should be enriched with some special musical offerings, and for that we look to familiar friends: the British composer, Sasha Johnson Manning, the Perseid String Quartet with Chantal Incandela, and of course Lansin Lim Kimler. Together they will present a new concerto for piano and strings that embellish three of the hymns central to Third's message: that most Baptist of hymns, "Shall We Gather At The River," the chorale that reminds us of Third's physical and spiritual location, "Where Cross The Crowded Ways Of Life," and culminating with our unofficial mantra, "Amazing Grace."

Prelude

Lansin Lim Kimler, Perseid Strings

Sasha Johnson Manning: Concerto for Third, movt. 1

Robert Lowry (1826-1899), a Baptist preacher in Brooklyn, composed the hymn "Gather At The River" in 1864 while an epidemic was sweeping New York. In the midst of sorrow, he foresaw a time when pain and despair would be no more. Today we will not sing these words, but you are invited to ponder them silently as Sasha weaves their melody together for the first movement of her Concerto: a most appropriate choice for a church 'gathered' at that mightiest of rivers, the Mississippi.

- 1. Shall we gather at the river,
 Where bright angel feet have trod,
 With its crystal tide forever
 Flowing by the throne of God?
 Refrain:
 Yes, we'll gather at the river,
 The beautiful, the beautiful river;
 Gather with the saints at the river
 That flows by the throne of God.
- 2. On the margin of the river, Washing up its silver spray, We will talk and worship ever, All the happy, golden day. Refrain

- 3. Ere we reach the shining river, Lay we every burden down; Grace our spirits will deliver, And provide a robe and crown. Refrain
- 4. Soon we'll reach the silver river, Soon our pilgrimage will cease; Soon our happy hearts will quiver With the melody of peace. Refrain

Welcome

Dr. Tommy Simons

The Table of the Lord

Words of Preparation

Alexander Archangelsky: Trisagion

Choir

Steeped in the traditions of the Russian Orthodox Church, Archangelsky (1846 – 1924) was an outstanding choir trainer, touring the country with a chorus of up to ninety voices. For this choir he wrote a sizable amount of sacred music, including this brief piece for the Lord's Table.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

Invitation to the Table

Martha Shaffer: Come, Risen Lord (pt. 1)

Choir

Martha Shaffer (b. 1946) is not only an accomplished accompanist and organist, currently at First Church, Christ Scientist, in St. Louis, but also a fine composer. She studied at Albright College (PA) and Columbia College and was for many years the accompanist of the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus. Several of her works are published by Oxford University Press and have been recorded by choirs in the USA and Canada. This work was composed in 2018 specifically for communion services at Third Baptist Church. The words were written by George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959), a canon of Worcester Cathedral, England.

Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest; Nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine; Thyself at thine own board make manifest In thine own Sacrament of bread and wine. We meet, as in the upper room they met; Thou at the table, blessing, yet dost stand: 'This is my body': so thou givest yet; Faith still receives the cup as from thine hand.

The Bread

Martha Shaffer: Come, Risen Lord (pt. 2) One body we, one body who partake, One church united in communion blest; One name we bear, one bread of life we break, With all thy saints on earth and saints at rest. Choir

One with each other, Lord, for one in thee; Who are one Saviour and one living head; Then open thou our eyes that we may see; Be known to us in breaking of the bread.

The Cup

Roger Wilkes: Bread of the World

Choir

A fierce advocate for the urban poor, after he moved from a comfortable English parish to Calcutta to become its Anglican bishop, the poet Reginald Heber used his highly developed literary skills to pen numerous hymns that remain pertinent even two centuries after his death. Here he captures the sacrifice of Jesus for sinners, and reminds us why we celebrate the Last Supper, as carved on our central altar – that homage to Leonardo da Vinci's original in Milan. The music is provided by a lifelong church musician currently working in the north of England.

Bread of the world in mercy broken, Wine of the soul in mercy shed, By whom the words of life were spoken, And in whose death our sins are dead. Look on the heart by sorrow broken, Look on the tears by sinners shed, And be thy feast to us, the token That by thy grace our souls are fed.

The Parting Blessing and Recognition of Scarlett Brand

Hymn of Baptism

#245, vv. 1 - 2, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(VENI EMMANUEL)

Offertory Prayer & Blessing of Gifts to Community Activity Center

Rev. Drew Phillips

Offertory Meditation

Lansin Lim Kimler, Perseid Strings

Sasha Johnson Manning: Concerto for Third, movt. 2

In 1905, Frank North was challenged by the editor of a new hymnal to write a text that celebrated city missions that had been inspired by Jesus's injunction in St. Matthew's Gospel, "Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." The resulting hymn was fitted to an adaptation by William Gardiner (1770 - 1853) of a Beethoven melody: hence its title, "Germany."

Poem Jerry Bryan

Christina Rossetti: Advent (1851)

Just as - in our opening hymn - we implore Jesus to come to us, so too the great Victorian poet, Rossetti (1830 - 1894) extended the concept of 'invitation' from the faithful to the Savior. Rossetti is considered one of the 19th century's foremost women writers, born into a family of Italian political refugees in London.

'Come,' Thou dost say to Angels, To blessed Spirits, 'Come': 'Come,' to the lambs of Thine own flock, Thy little ones, 'Come home.'

'Come,' from the many-mansioned house The gracious word is sent; 'Come,' from the ivory palaces Unto the Penitent.

O Lord, restore us deaf and blind, Unclose our lips though dumb: Then say to us, 'I will come with speed,' And we will answer, 'Come.'

Anthem

Melissa Dunphy: A New Heart

Choir

Former Composer-in-Residence for the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus, Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980) wrote this anthem in 2017 specifically for Third Baptist Church, setting verse 26 from Ezekiel, XXXVI. She was born and raised in Brisbane, Australia, but now makes her home in Philadelphia, where she earned her PhD in composition at the University of Pennsylvania, and now teaches at Rutgers University (NJ).

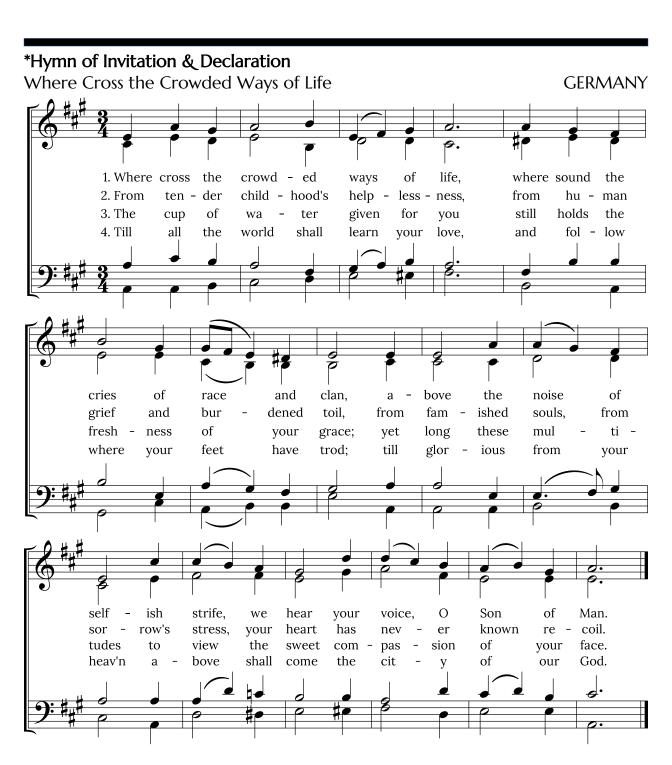
I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you; I will take away your heart of stone; I will give you a heart of flesh.

Scripture Reading

Luke 5: 1 – 11 Isaiah 6: 1 – 19 Exodus 4: 1 – 5 Ken Blanton Clara Jackson Laura Hoffman

SermonAbandon Caution

Dr. Warren Hoffman





Postlude

Lansin Lim Kimler, Perseid Strings

Sasha Johnson Manning: Concerto for Third, movt. 3

In this finale to our service and Sasha's Concerto we are invited to consider the power of redemption that is offered to all who turn to Jesus. We might also marvel at how the composer has wrought such moving music from that most familiar of melodies. To achieve this requires both artistry and inspiration, both qualities in abundance in the various pieces that Sasha has written for Third over the past few years. And though Third has not been 'in the city for good' for "ten thousand years" – to quote the hymn's last stanza – we do rejoice for the past one hundred and seventy-five.

- Amazing grace, (how sweet the sound!)
 That saved a wretch like me.
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 Was blind, but now I see.
- Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!
- 3. Through many dangers, toils, and snaresI have already come:'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,And grace will lead me home.
- 4. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures: He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
- 5. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright, shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first begun.

Prayer List

Nursing care and rehab facilities

Delilah Canning, Friendship Village, Chesterfield, MO Juanita Wallis, Cape Albeon, Valley Park, MO Margaret Warman, Delmar Gardens of Chesterfield, Chesterfield, MO

Praying for our Missionaries

Dr. Dan and Sarah Chetti - Middle East and Northern Africa

Jana Lee – Cyprus

Scarlette Jasper - Corbin, Kentucky, USA

Kihomi Ngwemi & Nzunga Mabudiga - Dominican Republic

Dr. Tim and Kathy Rice - The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Kit Ripley - Northern Thailand

Prayer Requests

Harold Beasley Peggy Hemphill
Fran Blake Glenn Jefferies

Jersey Dukes Chris Lee
Glass Family of Maui Deborah Lee
Adam Grisson Dr. Tim Rice
Alisa Guider Declan Rutan
Judith Hawk Karen Stewart

Please send updates, addition or edits to this list via email to Sally, Ella or Pastor Tommy (sallyoando@att.net, ebanks@third-baptist.org, tsimons@third-baptist.org)



If you're a visitor today, we want to meet you! Please fill out a visitor card and leave it in the offering plate or use the QR code below to connect with Third Baptist online.

Calendar for December 7 - 14

Sunday, December 7

9:30 AM Doughnut Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

9:45 AM Sunday School, Various

11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube

11:00 AM Godly Play

12:00 PM Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold

Wednesday, December 10

12:00 PM Staff Meeting

5:15 PM Dinner and Adult Bible Study, Room 2

5:45 PM Youth Group

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Sunday, December 14

9:30 AM Doughnut Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

9:45 AM Sunday School, Various

11:00 AM Worship, Sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube

12:00 PM Fellowship, Pillsbury Threshold

Pastoral and Music Staff

Dr. Tommy Simons, Pastor

Rev. Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Dr. Philip Barnes, Director of Music

Brent Johnson, Organist

Lansin Lim Kimler, Pianist

Ty Gegel, Assistance: text 409.678.4786

