

JOIN OUR FAITH FORMATION CLASSES — 10:45-11:30 AM

Main Level:

K-1st Gr | Preschool Rm — IMAGINE meeting Jesus

Church Choir | Music Rm — SING sacred music together.

Adults | Walnut Rm — LEARN about the spiritual disciplines through reading *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard J. Foster.

Lower Level (Stairs are located on the west end of the building):

2nd-3rd Gr | Rm 1 — WONDER about God's story and how we fit into it!

4th-5th Gr | Rm 2 — MARVEL how God works in the world.

6th-8th Gr | GEMS Rm — DIVE in and learn how the Bible relates to our lives.

High School | Mentor Sunday! — Meet with your mentoring partners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Office Note: Andi is on vacation through April 23rd

Our staff will check in occasionally for your communications to the church office, but we ask for your patience as you wait for a response. Thank you!

Alongside—Spring Clean-Up | Saturday, April 20 @ 8:30 am

We will gather volunteers at Alongside Ministries in Richland to assist with their Spring Clean-Up Day. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Agshin at agshinj@3rdcrc.org.

Flowers & Fellowship | Tuesday, May 21 @ 7pm

Join us for a ladies night at church! We will enjoy desserts, time together, and a flower arranging lesson from Flowerfield Farmstead. The cost of the event is \$20/person. **You may call, text, or email Ruth DeNooyer (269-720-3222 or ruthdenooyer@gmail.com)** with questions or to RSVP. To make sure we have enough supplies, **please sign up by May 13.**

Connection QR Code

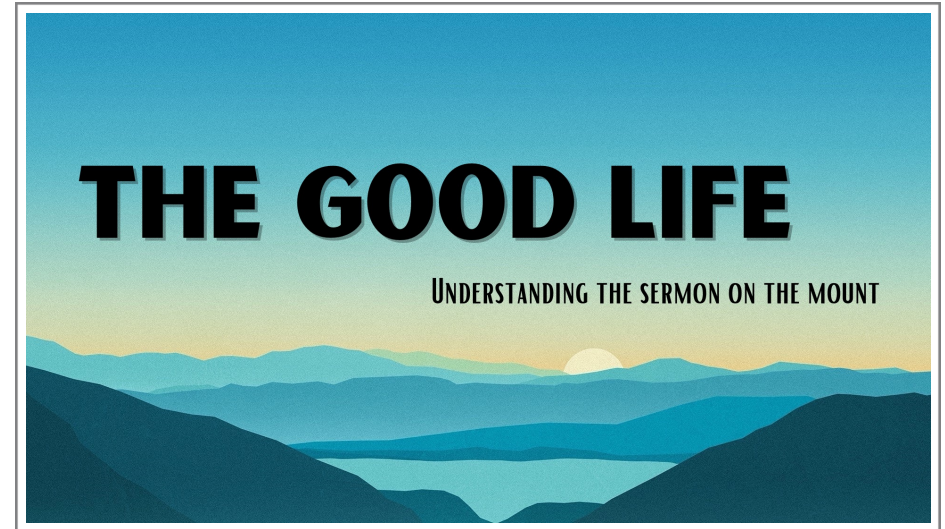
Open your phone's camera and hold it over this graphic to:

- ask questions
- send prayer requests
- give to our offering
- sign up for our weekly newsletter



Third Christian Reformed Church
2400 Winchell Ave + Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Office: M-Th 9am – 3pm + (269) 343-2400 + office@3rdcrc.org
Visit our website at 3rdcrc.org

April 14, 2024 + Worship @ 9:30 am



Welcome to Third Church!

We're so glad that you're here! If you've been worshipping with us for a while or you're entering the doors of a church for the first time, we hope you'll experience welcome, a sense of genuine community, and the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

If you need prayer, fill out a prayer card and place it in our prayer bowl at the front of the sanctuary during the sending song. Asking questions about faith and spirituality? Join us in our faith formation opportunities and ministry events—see the back panel to learn more about how you can get involved and meet others. Help us get to know you through the Connection QR Code—we'll be in touch. The Lord be with you!

*The congregation reads **bold italicized text** together and the leader reads plain text. Songs are found in the red Lift Up Your Hearts hymnal and on the front screens.*

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Gathering Song — See, What A Morning (181)

Call to Worship — based on Matthew 18:20

Joyful is the sound we make this morning!

ALL: For the resurrection liberates us from doubt and fear.

Thankful is the song we sing!

ALL: For the resurrection moves us past darkness and despair.

Hopeful is the prayer upon our lips!

ALL: For the resurrection awakens long-awaited new life in us.

Christ lives here and now! He is among us at this and every moment!

ALL: May his peace and presence be known to us.

Gathering Song — It Was Finished Upon that Cross

Call to Confession — Psalm 102:1-2

Confessional Song — O Lord, Hear My Prayer (462)

Words of Encouragement — “May the Peace” (Haley Montgomery)

In every anxious thought we have,

In all our current chaos and uncertainty,

ALL: May the peace of Christ rest upon us.

In every war that is raging in and around us,

In every unanswered question we carry,

ALL: May the peace of Christ rest upon us.

In all our unmet longing and waiting,

In all our trauma and woundedness,

ALL: May the peace of Christ rest upon us.

In all the pain we hold in our fragile bodies,

In all the tension we hold with those who are different from us,

ALL: May the peace of Christ rest upon us.

In all the conflict we experience with one another,

In every area of injustice we endure,

ALL: May the peace of Christ rest upon us.

In every active struggle against injustice,

In every hurt that yearns for healing,

ALL: May the peace of Christ rest upon us and be our comfort today. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts — Thrive Ministries

We invite you to give by placing your offering in the plates or using the offering QR code. Please assist our deacons by passing the plates toward the back of the sanctuary.



3rdcrc.org/give

Offering Instrumental — This Joyful Eastertide (202)

Passing the Peace

Children's Story & Dismissal — Age 3-2nd Grade

Life @ Third — Ministry Updates & Prayer

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Matthew 5:21-26 (pg. 1506) + The Good Life: “The Realities of Anger”

FOLLOWING GOD INTO THE WORLD

Echo Dismissal — 3rd-5th Grade

Sending Song — It Was Finished Upon that Cross (Reprise)

Eastertide Benediction & Sending

Go now as God's chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him.

May God raise you from all that would entomb you.

May Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you.

And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

ALL: Amen.

Let us go out into the world and in the upheaval of resurrection seek out life.

ALL: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

NOTES

REFLECT

There is a reason that Jesus speaks about anger and murder together. Anger is a complex feeling and attitude that, when handled incorrectly, may lead to tragedy. This ambiguity is one of the reasons that divide ancient philosophical schools and religions when they evaluate anger. Ancient Greek philosophical schools, such as Stoicism and Epicureanism, contended that anger is wrong or bad, and a truly mature being would do better to eliminate anger completely. Buddhism and Hinduism agree with this assessment, though Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) disagree with such a sweeping view of anger.

When Jesus Christ speaks about anger and murder, he makes an implicit connection between the two. He insists that it is not enough to only condemn sinful outward behavior such as murder. A key is to be aware of and address the root causes of sin, such as anger. Essentially, Jesus offers acceptance and forgiveness as a way to moderate and control (better yet, transcend) this feeling.

TAKE IT HOME

- Some manuscripts add the words “without cause” to the end of verse 22 (“...anyone who is angry with a brother or sister without cause...”). What do you think the phrase “without cause” means for the whole passage?
- Recall a situation when you reacted angrily to a person or thing. How did your angry reaction contribute to or detract from the outcome you were seeking?
- Why do you think Jesus specifically singles out murder as a result of anger, when anger can lead to many different sinful actions?
- Notice that in verses 23-24, Jesus recommends reconciliation without mentioning whether the person angry at us is rightly angry or not. Why do you think he does this?
- Do you think Scripture ever describes Christ's anger? If so, what passages or images can you recall depicting this?
- Read Ecclesiastes 7:9, Ephesians 4:26, and James 1:20. How do the teachings of these verses compare to Matt 5:21-26?

WAYS TO PRAY

- What is God calling you to believe, trust or do in response to this passage? Pray today and this coming week that God will help you with this!
- We continue to pray for **Ed and Linda Maring**, as the funeral for Ed's mom, Eike, took place on Friday. May the mercies and peace of Jesus Christ rest on each one in the Maring family.
- **Lori VanderLugt** had a procedure on Monday morning that is meant to help her eat safely. Please pray for a smooth recovery.
- **Rena Hasseler** is nearing the end of her earthly life. We pray for her to have relief from pain and discomfort, and for peace for her family during this time. She is not able to receive visitors right now, but please keep her in your prayers.
- **Jack Vandermay** continues to receive hospice care at home. Pray for comfort for Jack in the midst of discomfort and for peace for his family.