



northside church

OF RICHMOND

September 2nd, 2012

Meditations

"Aslan is a lion - the Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh" said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he - quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"Safe?" said Mr Beaver ... "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

- C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Readings to help you engage with God and worship, as Jesus said, "in spirit and in truth."

When you hear the first song begin, please come take a seat and continue preparing for worship by praying, reading the meditation quotes above, or singing along.

Up On A Mountain

Words, music: Vito Aiuto
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CCLI #: 11107331

God is present with us in worship. Declaring this together turns our hearts and minds toward Him.

Psalm 145:1-4, 7, 10-13

Please stand if able.

Song of Gathering

Up on a mountain our Lord is alone,
Without a family, friends, or a home.
He cries, "Oh, oh, oh, will you stay with me?"
He cries, "Oh, oh, oh, will you wait with me?"

Up on a mountain our Lord is afraid,
Carrying all the mistakes we have made.
And He knew it's a long way down.
Do you know it's a long way down?

Up in the heavens our Lord prays for you,
He sends His Spirit to carry us through.
So it's true that you're not alone.
Do you know he came all the way down?

So it's true that you're not alone.
Do you know he came all the way down?

We gather in the presence of God

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.*

**People: *Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.***

Leader: *One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*

**People: *All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your saints shall bless you!***

Leader: *They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*

**People: *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.***

Song of Praise

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His Name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His Name.

Blessings abound wherever He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

Jesus Shall Reign

*Words: Isaac Watts
Music: John Hatton
Public domain*

Scripture Reading

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

*"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Romans 8:28-39

*A time to be honest with
God about our need for
forgiveness.*

Please read together.

Daniel 9:9,18

Rock of Ages

*Words: Augustus Toplady
Music: Thomas Hastings
Public domain*

We confess our sin and receive grace

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, together we confess that our attitudes and actions do not reflect You.
We strive for recognition and acclaim from others, growing bitter if we do not get it.
We look out for our own needs and concerns, ignoring others except when it serves our purposes.
And our worship of You recedes when circumstances turn difficult.

Forgive our sin and renew our hearts, minds, and wills.
Jesus, teach us that we only achieve greatness by giving our lives away.
Spirit, conform us to the likeness of Christ,
Father, be glorified in our lives. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him . . .
We do not make requests of You because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy.*

Song of Renewal

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands,
Can fulfill Thy law's demands.
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace.
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Savior, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

We respond to the grace received

Being set right with God enables us to participate in his work.

Passing of the Peace

The peace God made with us is extended to those around us.

Community Life

Prayers of the People

The world: Kevin and Katie Shaffer, church planters in London

The Northside: Youth Life Foundation, tutoring ministry in Highland Park

Our church: Preparation for Northside Groups, which relaunch over the next two weeks

Offering

Today we are collecting an offering for the mercy fund in a tan basket in addition to the weekly general fund offering in the multi-colored basket.

The mercy fund is used for financial assistance to those in need from our church and the Northside.

We see giving as a part of worship. If you feel the same way we invite you to participate.

Song of Preparation

I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.

chorus

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er,
to Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore!

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, this my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

chorus (x2)

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

Just a Closer Walk

*Author unknown
Traditional folk song
Public domain*

*Our mind, body, and spirit
are nourished with food
that does not perish.*

God feeds us with His Word

Psalm 73

Sermon Text

1 Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.
3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw
the prosperity of the wicked.
4 For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.
5 They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.
6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.
7 Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.
8 They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.
9 They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.
10 Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.
11 And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
12 Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
14 For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.
15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have
betrayed the generation of your children.

16 But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
17 until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.
18 Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.
19 How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!
20 Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when you rouse yourself,
you despise them as phantoms.
21 When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
22 I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.
23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
24 You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.
25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is
nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the
strength of my heart and my portion forever.
27 For behold, those who are far from you
shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is
unfaithful to you.
28 But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.

Isaiah 40:8

Leader: *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

People: Praise be to God!

*Today's sermon is given by
Dave Baxter, pastoral intern
at Mitchell Road
Presbyterian Church in SC.*

Sermon

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Leader: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Supper

When you are ready, please come to one of the communion stations and circle it with others in a group of about 6. Step forward and take a cup and a piece of bread, and a communion distributor will pour wine or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are located in the wooden boxes. If you would like, a communion distributor will pray for your children.

There is a person at the back of the fellowship hall ready to pray with and for you, if desired.

Song of Communion

There is life in the blood
of the Lamb who was slain.
There is power, there is power in His name.
There is love pouring out
of the wounds that were made,
Pouring out, pouring over our shame.

So praise the God who saves!
Praise the God who bled!
Praise the God who was nailed to a tree,
And wore our sins upon His head.

There is truth in His body,
raised that third day.
There is joy in a stone rolled away.

There is hope pouring out
of the tomb where He lay,
Pouring out, pouring over the grave.

chorus

There is life in the blood
of the Lamb who was slain.
There is power, there is power in His name.

So praise the God who saves!
Praise the God who bled!
Praise the God who was nailed to a tree,
And wore our sins...

chorus

Parents who would like for their nursery-aged children to be present and prayed for during communion meal should pick them up at this time.

1 Corinthians 11:23b-26

Communion at Northside is a patient, relaxed time. As others take communion please feel free to pray, sing along, or talk quietly with your neighbor.

God Who Saves

Words and music: Aaron Senseman

We go forth to love and
serve God and neighbor.

God sends us out refreshed

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Words: Samuel Stennet
Music: Christopher Miner
© 1997 Christopher Miner
Music

In this song the Christian journey is compared to the Israelites' anticipated entrance to the promised land of Canaan on the other side of the Jordan River. The Israelites had endured many hardships while waiting for God to fulfill his promises of land and rest.

Similarly, though we face difficulties and tests of faith in this life, in Christ we can look forward in faith to the time when God's promises will come to fruition.

Song of Rejoicing

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
and cast a wishful eye,
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains,
shines one eternal day.
There God, the Son forever reigns,
and scatters night away.

I am bound, (I am bound)
I am bound, (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land.
I am bound, (I am bound)
I am bound, (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath,
can reach that healthful shore,
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
are felt and feared no more.

chorus

When shall I reach that happy place,
and be forever blest?
When shall I see my Father's face,
and in His bosom rest?

chorus (x2)

Benediction

About

Northside Church of Richmond is a mission church of the Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org), planted in October 2011

Worship Service

Each Sunday at 4pm in the fellowship hall of Battery Park Christian Church, located on the corner of Brook Rd and Bellevue Ave.

Visitors are always welcome!

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