



northside church

OF RICHMOND

December 1, 2013

Meditation

The divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needed to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets.

- J.I. Packer

*Readings to help you
prepare to worship, as Jesus
said, "in spirit and in truth."*

*When you hear the first
song begin, please come take
a seat.*

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

How Long?

Words and music:
Peter La Grand
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Proverbs 1-3

CCLI #: 11107331

Psalm 34:1-5

Please stand if able.

We gather in the presence of God

Song of Gathering

Wisdom cries out in the street,
In the square she raises her voice.
At the center of town you can hear her speak,
Over all the other noise. She says:

“How long O simple ones?
How long will you ignore?
Wake up you walking dead,
Open your ears to the Lord!”

My child do not forget,
The path I show to you.
All other ways only lead to death,
Ways so easy to choose.

Trust in the Lord only,
With all your heart and mind.
Then you shall not stumble,
All that you seek you shall find.

“How long O simple ones?
How long will you ignore?
Wake up you walking dead,
Open your ears to the Lord!”

Wisdom cries out in the street,
In the square she raises her voice.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

**People: *My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.***

Leader: *Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!*

**People: *I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.***

Song of Praise

Come thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it –
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my **Ebenezer**,
hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.

O, to grace, how great a debtor,
daily I'm constrained to be.
Let that grace, now, like a **fetter**,
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it –
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it –
seal it for Thy courts above.

repeat

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Words: Robert Robinson
Music: Ashael Nettleton
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“Ebenezer” means “stone of help.” It was the name of a monument to God’s faithfulness erected by Samuel, a judge of ancient Israel. See 1 Samuel 7:12.

A “fetter” is a chain or shackle placed on the feet.

Scripture Reading

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Isaiah 7:10-14

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

Please read together.

John 1:29

**God of My Life, To Thee
I Call**

Words: William Cowper
Music: Clint Wells, Brian T.
Murphy and Benj Pocta
© 2007 Red Mountain
Music

Here's another way to phrase
the last 2 lines of the chorus:
When you put your faith
in Jesus he becomes your
powerful advocate, and you
can be confident of your
spiritual safety and profit in
any circumstance.

We confess our sin and receive grace

Confession of Sin

Generous God, You sent us the Spirit of courage, but we act out of fear.
You sent us the Spirit of truth, but we often trust lies instead.
You sent us the Spirit of healing, but we cannot let go of our hurts.
Now our hearts are suspicious, our minds are confused, and our faith is timid.

Hear our confession, and come near to us with mercy.
We hold out to You all our particular burdens of guilt and sin.
Help us rest in Your forgiveness, and rejoice in Your power to change sinners.
Teach us to love You with our whole being, and to walk in Your ways. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Song of Renewal

God of my life, to Thee I call,
Afflicted at Thy feet I fall. *chorus*

When the great water floods prevail,
Leave not my trembling heart to fail.

Poor though I am, despised, forgot,
Yet God, my God, forgets me not.
And he is safe and must succeed,
For whom the Lord is sure to plead.

That were a grief I could not bear,
Didst Thou not hear and answer prayer.
But a prayer-hearing, -answering God,
Supports me under every load.

chorus (x2)

Friend of the friendless and the faint,
Where should I lodge my deep complaint?
Where but with Thee, whose open door,
Invites the helpless and the poor!

We respond to the grace received

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

Passing of the Peace

Community Life

Prayers of the People

The world: Hunter and Adrienne Thompson - Northsider members who moved to Rwanda

The Northside: Timothy Project - outreach to John Marshall students

Our church: Northside Group leaders - energy, wisdom, and compassion

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

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

chorus

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

chorus

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
and be Thyself our King of Peace.

chorus (x2)

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Composed of several anonymous antiphons written in the 12th century, set to VENI EMMANUEL, a 15th century processional, and arranged by Thomas Helmore in the 19th century

Public domain

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

God feeds us with His Word

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon Text

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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
Pastor Matt Lorish.*

Sermon

*We encourage you to use
this space to take notes or
write questions.*

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

Gluten-free wafers are located in the wooden boxes. If you would like, a communion distributor will pray for your children. At the back of the fellowship hall is someone ready to pray with and for you.

Song of Communion

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use Thy folds prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, Thou dost befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse and power to free.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor,
early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
with Thy love our bosoms fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

repeat

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

1 Corinthians 11:23b-26

As others take communion please feel free to pray, sing along, or talk quietly with your neighbor.

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Words:
Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836

Music:
William B. Bradbury, 1859
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*We go forth to love and
serve God and neighbor.*

God sends us out refreshed

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

*Words: George Matheson
Music: Christopher Miner
© 1997 Christopher Miner
Music*

Song of Rejoicing

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day,
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee.
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red,
Life that shall endless be.

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

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

Sunday at 4pm in the fellowship hall of Battery Park Christian Church @ the corner of Brook and Bellevue. Visitors are always welcome!

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