



# northside church

OF RICHMOND

*December 29, 2013*

## **Meditation**

When we pray, 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,' we are looking for and participating in the complete establishment of what is only hinted at in the human government, even at its best. All rule and all government are fulfilled, finally, in Jesus Christ.

– Eugene Peterson

It is not charity, but equity, not paternalism, but righteousness that humanity most needs in government.

– Henry Melville King

*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.

### **Angels From the Realms of Glory**

Words: James Montgomery  
Music: Henry Smart  
Public domain

CCLI #: 11107331

### **Psalm 47**

Please stand if able.

# We gather in the presence of God

## Song of Gathering

Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light.

*chorus*

Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star.

*chorus*

Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear.

*chorus*

## Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.*

**People:** *He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.  
He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.*

Leader: *God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.*

**People:** *Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!*

Leader: *For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!  
God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.*

**People:** *The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!*

## Song of Praise

O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him,  
born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

*chorus*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God,  
all glory in the highest;

*chorus*

True God of true God,  
Light from Light Eternal,  
Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father,  
begotten, not created;

## Advent Reading

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:*

*"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."*

*Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **O Come All Ye Faithful**

*Words: John Francis Wade  
Music: John Francis Wade  
(probable)  
Public domain*

**Matthew 2:1-12**

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

*Please read together.*

**1 Peter 3:18a**

**All Must Be Well**

*Words: Mary Bowley-Peters,  
alt by Matthew S. Smith  
Music: Matthew S. Smith.  
©2007 Detuned Radio Music*

# We confess our sin and receive grace

## Confession of Sin

Holy God, we are guilty - of rejecting Your commands, of doubting Your promises,  
of proud self-reliance, of neglect to rest in You.

Daily we fail to love You and our neighbor as we ought.

Praise You for providing the Savior in Jesus, who takes our sin and gives us His righteousness!

Lord, continue the work of salvation in us:

Conquer our weakness with Your strength, blot out our selfishness with Your glory.

Meet us in our suffering and disappointments, refine us as You see fit.

Keep us from returning to sin's bondage, brighten our hearts with Your grace.

Redirect our desires so that we delight deeply in You. Amen.

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Pardon

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.*

## Song of Renewal

Through the love of God our Savior,  
all will be well.

Free and changeless is His favor, all is well.

Precious is the blood that healed us,  
Perfect is the grace that sealed us,  
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us,  
All must be well.

Though we pass through tribulation,  
all will be well.

Ours is such a full salvation, all is well.

Happy still in God confiding,  
Fruitful if in Christ abiding,  
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding,  
All must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow;  
all will be well.

Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well.

On our Father's love relying,  
Jesus every need supplying,  
Yes in living or in dying,  
All must be well.

*repeat*

# 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: Christ School - Bundibugyo, Uganda

The Northside: Youth Life Foundation - tutoring/mentoring for elementary and middle schoolers)

Our church: Upcoming new members class - dates being selected now

## Offering

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

## Song of Preparation

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise!  
Triumph o'er the shades of night.

Dayspring from on high, be near.  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Were it ever without Thee.  
Joyless is the day's return,  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,

Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine!  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!  
Fill me, radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief.

More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.  
*repeat*

Dayspring from on high, be near.  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

### *Dayspring*

*Words: Charles Wesley*

*Music: Alex Mejias*

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

# God feeds us with His Word

## Sermon Text

*1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! 2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! 5 May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! 7 In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! 8 May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! 9 May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! 11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! 12 For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. 13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. 14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight. 15 Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day! 16 May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field! 17 May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed! 18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. 19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! 20 The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.*

## 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  
Dan Marotta.*

## 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

*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.*

*We go forth to love and  
serve God and neighbor.*

# God sends us out refreshed

## **The Doxology**

*Words: Thomas Ken  
Music: Louis Bourgeois  
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## **Songs of Rejoicing**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## **Every Ditch, Every Valley**

*Words and music:  
Peter La Grand  
©2008*

A voice says "Cry out: All men are like grass,  
And their time of glory soon shall pass.  
But the word of God, it will never die.  
Surely it will stand For eternity!"

You who bring good news,  
raise your voice and shout,  
Do not be afraid to speak the name of God.  
The hard days are gone, the debt has been paid,  
And the time has come to walk the righteous way.

*Isaiah 40*

Every ditch and valley shall be raised up,  
Every hill and mountain be made low,  
Every rugged place will be made flat,  
Everybody shall see the glory of the LORD.

*chorus (x2)*

Everybody shall see the glory of the LORD.

## **Benediction**

### **About**

Northside Church of Richmond is a mission church of the Presbyterian Church in America ([www.pcanet.org](http://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!

### **Contact**

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