



northside church

OF RICHMOND

December 20, 2015

Meditation

Stewardship is not one more thing we have to do, but a way of seeing everything we already do in a very different light.

In return this “whole life stewardship” will add the peace, fulfillment, significance and purpose to our lives in the here and now that we all so desperately seek.

- Hugh Whelchel, Institute of Faith, Work & Economics (tifwe.org)

*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, and we ask Him to turn our hearts and minds toward Him.

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

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

The prophet Isaiah tells of a coming King who will rule his people forever in justice and peace.

Please stand if able.

We gather in the presence of God

Song of Gathering

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 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, 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, 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)

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

People: ***You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.***

Leader: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

People: ***Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.***

Song of Praise

Come Holy Spirit, come
Let Thy bright beams arise;
Dispel the darkness from our minds,
And open all our eyes.

Convince us of our sin,
Then lead to Jesus' blood,
And to our wondering view reveal
The secret love of God.

Revive our drooping faith,
Our doubts and fears remove,
And kindle in our breast the flame
Of never-dying love.

'Tis Thine to cleanse the heart,
To sanctify the soul,
To pour fresh life in every part,
And new-create the whole.

Dwell therefore in our hearts,
Our minds from bondage free;
Then we shall know, and praise, and love
The Father, Son, and Thee.

Then we shall know, and praise, and love
The Father, Son, and Thee.

Come Holy Spirit, Come

Words: Joseph Hart
Music: Hiram Ring
© 1997 Pageant Music

Scripture Reading

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Romans 12:1-8

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

Please read together.

Zephaniah 3:15

*How Deep the Father's
Love For Us*

*Words and music:
Stuart Townend
© 1995 Thankyou Music*

We confess our sin and receive grace

Confession of Sin

Lord Christ, we confess we are willing to be loved, but reluctant to love;
Ready to accept your forgiving love, but refuse to forgive;
Eager to call ourselves your disciples, but resistant to follow you in all circumstances.

In this season of Advent, forgive us for our failure to respond as we ought.

Come to us anew, and by your grace:

Assist us to receive you with joy, like the shepherds;
to worship you with devotion, like the magi;
to obey you with faith, like Mary.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.*

Song of Renewal

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son,
to make a wretch His treasure!

How great the pain of searing loss,
the Father turned His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen one,
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
no gifts, no power, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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

Update and prayer - Richmond City Young Life

Offering

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

Song of Preparation

Because of His great love,
We are not overcome!
Because of His great love,
We are not overcome!

Put no trust in the earth,
In the sod you stand upon.
Flowers fade into dust;
The Lord will make a place for us.

chorus

Flesh will fail, and bones will break;
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake.
Night will fall, the light will fade;
The Lord will give and take away.

Have no fear for your life,
Turn your cheek, turn your cheek.
Bear the yoke of love and death,
The Lord will give life and breath.

chorus (x2)

We Are Not Overcome

*Words and music: Isaac Wardell, Robert Heiskell
© 2011*

Lamentations 3

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

God feeds us with His Word

Sermon Text

Matthew 25:14-30

14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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 Assistant Pastor Joel
Passmore.*

Sermon

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

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

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

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.

1 Corinthians 11:23b-26

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, nut-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.

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

Song of Communion

I have a Maker,
He formed my heart.
Before even time began,
My life was in His hands.

He knows my name,
He knows my every thought.
He sees each tear that falls,
and He hears me when I call.

I have a Maker,
He formed my heart.
Before even time began,
My life was in His hands.

I have a Father,
He calls me His own.
He'll never leave me,
No matter where I go.

chorus

He Knows My Name

*Words and music:
Tommy Walker
© 1996 Doulos Publishing*

We go forth to love and
serve God and neighbor.

God sends us out refreshed

Down At the Cross (Glory To His Name)

Words: Elisha A. Hoffman
Music: John H. Stockton,
arr. James Ward
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CCLI #: 11107331

Song of Rejoicing

Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His Name!

Glory to His Name, glory to His Name!
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His Name!

I am so wondrously saved from sin
Jesus so sweetly abides within.
There at the cross where He took me in,
Glory to His Name!

chorus

O precious fountain that saves from sin
I am so glad I have entered in.
There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean;
Glory to His Name!

chorus

Come to the fountain so rich and sweet,
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior's feet.
Plunge in today, and be made complete;
Glory to His Name!

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

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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