



# northside church

## OF RICHMOND

***December 14, 2014***

### **Meditation**

What is God's attitude toward the apathetic? "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands" (Psalm 138:8). God has not met his match in apathy. God is *purposeful*. God is *enduring*. God is *working*. How does sanctification work in the heart of the apathetic? "I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me" (Psalm 57:2). We cry out and ask God to do what he is already doing.

- Paul Maxwell, "How God Cares For Those Who Don't," [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.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.

### **Just a Little Talk With Jesus**

Words and music:  
Rev. Cleavant Derricks  
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CCLI #: 11107331

### **Micah 5:2-5**

The prophet Micah bring a word from God, saying that a mighty ruler will come from Bethlehem who will lead God's people into lasting rest and peace.

Please stand if able.

# **We gather in the presence of God**

## **Song of Gathering**

I once was lost in sin,  
but Jesus took me in.  
Then a little light from heaven healed my soul.  
Well He bathed my heart in love,  
and He wrote my name above.  
Just a little talk with Jesus makes it right.

You may have doubts and fears,  
And your eyes be filled with tears,  
But Jesus is a friend who watches day and night.  
He wrote my name above,  
And he bathed my heart in love.  
Just a little talk with Jesus makes it right.

We'll just have a little talk with Jesus,  
And we'll tell him all about our troubles.      *chorus*  
He will hear our faintest cry,  
He will answer by and by.  
When you feel a little prayerful yearning,  
You will know a little fire is burning.  
Just a little talk with Jesus makes it right.

## **Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*

**People:** *Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.*

Leader: *And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.*

**People:** *And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.  
And he shall be their peace.*

## Song of Praise

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,  
Early in the morning  
our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim  
falling down before Thee,  
Who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man,  
Thy glory may not see.  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,  
All thy works shall praise Thy name  
in earth, and sky, and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy,  
merciful and mighty,  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity.

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

Words: Reginald Heber  
Music: John B. Dykes  
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## Advent Reading

*In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.*

*Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."*

*And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.*

*After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Luke 1:5-25**

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

Please read together.

**John 1:29**

**Mighty To Save**

Words and music: Reuben  
Morgan, Ben Fielding  
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Zephaniah 3:17, Hebrews  
2:10, Ezekiel 38:20

# We confess our sin and receive grace

## Confession of Sin

Lord, You alone are full of grace and truth, but we have not kept watch for You.

We have sought our own glory above Yours.

We have not waited to find Your will for us.

We have not noticed the needs of others around us.

We have not acknowledged Your beauty and the love that You have shown us.

Forgive us for our sins against You.

Heavenly Father, help us to yield to the wisdom of Your ways;

Lord Jesus, lead us to live in light of Your coming;

Holy Spirit, give us faith to see that You are truly among us; 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

Everyone needs compassion,

love that's never failing.

Let mercy fall on me.

Everyone needs forgiveness,

the kindness of a Savior,

The hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains,

My God is mighty to save,

He is mighty to save!

Forever, Author of salvation

He rose and conquered the grave,

Jesus conquered the grave!

So take me as You find me,

all my fears and failures.

Fill my life again.

I give my life to follow,

everything I believe in.

Now I surrender.

*chorus*

Shine your light and let the whole world see.

We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Shine your light and let the whole world see.

We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

*chorus*

# We respond to the grace received

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

## Passing of the Peace

## Community Life

New Member Vows - Corinne Tucker

## Offering

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

## Song of Preparation

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee,  
Dayspring from on high, appear;  
come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news,  
glad tidings of a birth;  
"Go to Him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
by His life He brings us gladness,  
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
born within a cattle stall;  
this the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone,  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

## *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*Words: Charles Wesley  
Music: Rowland Pritchard  
Public domain*

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

# God feeds us with His Word

## Sermon Text

**Luke 1:57-79**

*57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." 61 And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." 62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. 65 And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, 66 and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.*

*67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,  
68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people  
69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,  
70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;  
72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,  
73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,  
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,  
78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

**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 Pastoral Intern Joel  
Passmore.*

## 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

Bread of heaven, sent down from glory,  
Many things you were on Earth:  
A Holy King, a carpenter.  
You are the living Word.

*repeat*

Awesome Ruler, gentle Redeemer,  
God with us, the Living Truth,  
And what a friend we have in You.  
You are the living Word.

*repeat*

Jesus, Jesus - that's what we call You,  
Manger born, put on a tree,  
You died to save humanity.  
You are the living Word!

*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.*

***You Are the Living Word***

*Words and music: Fred Hammond, Noel Hall  
© 2000 Bridge Building Music, Zomba Songs*

*John 1:1, 6:35  
Matthew 21:5*

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

# God sends us out refreshed

## **Victory In Jesus**

*Words and music:  
Eugene Monroe Bartlett  
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## **Song of Rejoicing**

I heard an old, old story,  
how a Savior came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary  
to save a wretch like me;  
I heard about His groaning,  
of His precious blood's atoning,  
Then I repented of my sins  
and won the victory.

O victory in Jesus,  
my Savior, forever!  
He sought me and bought me  
with His redeeming blood;  
He loved me ere I knew Him,  
and all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory  
beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing,  
of His cleansing pow'r revealing.  
How He made the lame to walk again  
and caused the blind to see;  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,  
come and heal my broken spirit,"  
And somehow Jesus came and brought  
to me the victory.

*chorus*

I heard about a mansion  
He has built for me in glory.  
And I heard about the streets of gold  
beyond the crystal sea;  
About the angels singing,  
and the old redemption story,  
And some sweet day I'll sing to Him  
the song of victory.

*chorus (x2)*

## **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**

P.O. Box 26175 / Richmond, VA 23260  
[www.northsidechurchva.org](http://www.northsidechurchva.org) / 804.516.3322

### **Staff**

Matt Lorish - Pastor

[matt@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:matt@northsidechurchva.org)

P.D. Mayfield - Assistant Pastor, Director of Urban Fellows

[pd@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:pd@northsidechurchva.org)

Joel Passmore - Pastoral Intern, Worship Director

[joel@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:joel@northsidechurchva.org)

Ashleigh Padgett - Bookkeeper

[ashleigh@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:ashleigh@northsidechurchva.org)

Charity Smith - Ministry Intern

[charity@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:charity@northsidechurchva.org)

Corinne Tucker - Ministry Intern, Admin Assistant

[corinne@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:corinne@northsidechurchva.org)