



# northside church

OF RICHMOND

***December 28, 2014***

## **Meditation**

Farmers do what they can do, what is expected of them. But then God must work. And God will work. And in the confidence of that, this farmer rests secure. ... It is hard work as he sows the field, but this is what he can do. But then he goes home and goes to bed. He does not sit up all night biting his fingernails, wondering if the seed fell in the right places or whether it will take root. Nor does he rise the next morning and go out and dig it up to see whether or not it has sprouted yet. He rests secure in the fact that God is at work, that He has a part in this process, and He must do it; no one can do it for Him. But he will faithfully perform it.

- Ray Stedman, *The Power of His Presence*

*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.

### **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

Words and Music:  
Traditional Polish carol  
Public domain

# We gather in the presence of God

## Song of Gathering

Infant holy, Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall.  
Oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
Noels ringing, tidings bringing,  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping,  
Vigil till the morning new.  
Saw the glory, heard the story,  
Tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, greet the morrow,  
Christ the Babe was born for you.  
Christ the Babe was born for you.

Swiftly winging angels singing,  
Noels ringing, tidings bringing,  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, greet the morrow,  
Christ the Babe was born for you.  
Christ the Babe was born for you.

## Welcome and Call to Worship

**Luke 1:68-75**

*Please stand if able.*

Leader: *"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,*

**People:** *as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;*

Leader: *to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,*

**People:** *the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days."*

## 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

*Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

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

**Mark 4:1-9**

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

*Please read together.*

**1 Peter 3:18a**

### **What Child Is This?**

*Words: William Chatterton  
Dix  
Music: traditional English  
folk song  
Public domain*

# **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**

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

## **Song of Renewal**

What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap, is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
the cross be born for me, for you;  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come peasant king to own Him,  
The King of Kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby:  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

# We respond to the grace received

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

## Passing of the Peace

## Community Life

Missions Update - Ernest and Sarah Grant, Epiphany Camden

## Offering

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

## Song of Preparation

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior  
was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father,  
a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
the Son of God by name.

*chorus*

"Fear not," then said the angel,  
"Let nothing you affright,  
This day is born a Savior,  
of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him  
from Satan's power and might."

*chorus*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
all other doth efface.

*chorus*

## **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

*Author unknown  
Public domain*

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

**Mark 4:26-29**

**Isaiah 40:8**

*Today's sermon is given by  
Ernest Grant, Connections  
Pastor at Epiphany  
Camden, NJ.*

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

# God feeds us with His Word

## Sermon Text

*26 And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. 28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

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

**People: Praise be to God!**

## Sermon

# 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 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

## **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

*Words: Charles Wesley,  
George Whitefield, Felix  
Mendelssohn*

*Music: Felix Mendelssohn,  
William H. Cummings  
Public domain*

## **Song of Rejoicing**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild, He lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

## **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)