



northside church

OF RICHMOND

December 23, 2012

Meditations

The event of Christ is the only event in human history that promises relocation and centering, meaning and purpose. This promise and its fulfillment evoke passionate and heartfelt praise and thanks, especially for those aware of their own brokenness and the healing which Christ brings into their lives.

- Robert Webber

Readings to help you engage with God and worship, as Jesus said, "in spirit and in truth."

When you hear the first song begin, please come take a seat and continue preparing for worship by praying, reading the meditation quotes above, or singing along.

We gather in the presence of God

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

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CCLI #: 11107331

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

Psalm 96:1-8

Please stand if able.

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: *Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!*

People: ***Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.***

Leader: *Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!*

People: ***For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.***

Leader: *For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.*

People: ***Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.***

Leader: *Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!*

People: ***Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!***

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!

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

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

O Come All Ye Faithful

*Words: John Francis Wade
Music: John Francis Wade
(probable)
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Advent Reading

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **Luke 2:1-6**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

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

Please read together.

Acts 10:43

By Thy Mercy

*Words: James Cummins
Music: Greg Thompson
©2004 Greg Thompson*

We confess our sin and receive grace

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, You told us to love You with our whole being, but we have not.

We have fled from You in unbelief.

We have treasured the gifts rather than the Giver.

We have complained about our circumstances rather than rejoice in Your presence.

You told us to love our neighbor, but we have not.

Instead of speaking well of them, we have gossiped.

Instead of reconciling with them, we have held on to bitterness.

Instead of loving them, we have only loved ourselves.

Forgive us our sins, renew us by Your Spirit, and increase our faith as we follow You. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

All the prophets testify about Jesus Christ that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.

Song of Renewal

Jesus, Lord of life and glory,
bend from heaven Thy gracious ear.
While our waiting souls adore Thee,
friend of helpless sinners, hear.

From the depth of nature's blindness,
from the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness,
from the pride that lurks within.

By Thy mercy, O deliver us,
good Lord, good Lord.

By Thy mercy, O deliver us,
good Lord, good Lord.

When temptation sorely presses,
in the day of Satan's power,
In our times of deep distresses,
in each dark and trying hour.

When the world around is smiling,
in the time of wealth and ease,
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling,
in the day of health and peace.

chorus

In the weary hours of sickness,
in the times of grief and pain,
When we feel our mortal weakness,
when all human help is vain,

In the solemn hour of dying,
in the awful judgment day,
May our souls, on Thee relying,
find Thee still our rock and stay.

chorus

We respond to the grace received

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

Passing of the Peace

The peace God made with us is extended to those around us.

Community Life

Prayers of the People

The world: Kevin and Katie Shaffer, church plant in London

The Northside: Last Sunday Supper, community outreach and meal on last Sunday of the month

Our church: New Members Seminar, January 4-6

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.*

Philippians 2:6-7

Isaiah 40:8

*Today's sermon is given by
pastor Matt Lorish.*

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

God feeds us with His Word

Sermon Text

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

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

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

When you are ready, please come to one of the communion stations and circle it with others in a group of about 6. Step forward and take a cup and a piece of bread, and a communion distributor will pour wine or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are located in the wooden boxes. If you would like, a communion distributor will pray for your children.

There is a person at the back of the fellowship hall ready to pray with and for you, if desired.

Song of Communion

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth did smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness.
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold up Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

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

1 Corinthians 11:23b-26

Communion at Northside is a patient, relaxed time. As others take communion please feel free to pray, sing along, or talk quietly with your neighbor.

Abide With Me

Words: Henry Lyte, alt by Justin Smith

*Music: Justin Smith
© 2007 Justin Smith Music*

*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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Song 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.

But For You Who Fear My Name

*Words and music: Leonard
E. Smith Jr.
© 1975 L.E. Smith Jr., New
Jerusalem Music*

But for you who fear My Name,
The Son of righteousness will rise
With healing in His wings.

And you shall go forth again,
And skip about like calves
Coming from their stalls at last.

You shall be My very own,
On the day that I
Cause you to be My special home.

I shall spare you as a man
Has compassion on his son
Who does the best he can.

Malachi 4:2; 3:17

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

Each Sunday at 4pm in the fellowship hall of Battery Park Christian Church, located on the corner of Brook Rd and Bellevue Ave.
Visitors are always welcome!

Contact

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