



northside church

OF RICHMOND

December 18th, 2011

Meditation

"A beautiful instance of real harmony, amidst apparent contradiction, is here exhibited. A star from heaven announces that he is a king, to whom a manger, intended for cattle, serves for a throne, because he is refused admittance among the lowest of the people. His majesty shines in the East, while in Judea it is so far from being acknowledged, that it is visited by many marks of dishonor. Why is this? The heavenly Father chose to appoint the star and the Magi as our guides, to lead directly to his Son: while he stripped him of all earthly splendor, for the purpose of informing us that his kingdom is spiritual."

- John Calvin, *Commentaries*, Vol. 31

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.

***Thou Poor, Afflicted,
Tempted Soul***

Words: John Berridge
Music: Brian T. Murphy &
Ashley Spurling
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Music

CCLI #: 11107331

*A recognition of the
presence of God among
us, which influences the
posture of our hearts.*

Psalms 86:8-12

Please stand if able.

Song of Gathering

Thou poor, afflicted, tempted soul,
With fears, and doubts, and tempests tossed.
What if the billows rise and roll,
And dash thy ship, it is not lost.

The winds and waves and fiends may roar,
But Christ will bring thee safe on shore.
The winds and waves and fiends may roar,
But Christ will bring thee safe on shore.

What ails those eyes bedewed with tears?
Those laboring sighs that heave thy breast?
Those oft repeated, broken prayers?
Dost thou not long for Jesus' rest?

And can the Lord pass heedless by,
And see a mourning sinner die?
And can the Lord pass heedless by,
And see a sad and mourning sinner die?

The winds and waves and fiends may roar,
But Christ will bring thee safe on shore.
The winds and waves and fiends may roar,
But Christ will bring thee safe on shore.

We gather in the presence of God

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.*

People: *All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.*

Leader: *Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.*

People: *I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.*

Songs 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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Scripture Reading

*1 Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel
on the cheek.*

*2 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.*

*3 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.*

*4 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.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.*

5 And he shall be their peace.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Micah 5:1-5a

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

Please read together.

We confess our sin and receive grace

Confession of Sin

Our Father in Heaven, sovereign over all, our life is found in You alone.
We confess that we have been mesmerized by the wealth and glory of our culture,
and strive to make a heaven of this world.
We confess that we have compromised our allegiance to You,
to avoid the rejection and alienation of our peers, and have not trusted You as our Refuge.
We confess that we have shrunk from those in need,
retreated from those we fear, and hoped downfall for those we envy.
We confess that we have not been stewards of gifts and talents for Your glory,
Your mission, and the common good.
Father in Heaven, forgive us; save us from the sweetness of sin as well as its bitterness.
Lord Jesus Christ, redeem us; keep us in God's faith and love.
Holy Spirit, renew us; that we might bear fruit to the glory of Your Kingdom. 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

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.

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

Acts 10:43

All Must Be Well

*Words by Mary Bowley-
Peters alt by Matthew S.
Smith
Music by Matthew S. Smith.
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We respond to the grace received

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

Community Life

Passing of the Peace

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

Prayers of the People

The world: International Justice Mission, effort to end slavery world wide

The Northside: Northside Outreach Center, ministry in Highland Park

Our church: To be a church marked by faithfulness

Offering

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

Song of Preparation

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 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, 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, 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

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

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

Matthew 2:1-12

Isaiah 40:8

*Today's sermon is given
by Clint Dowda, pastor of
Grace Community Pres-
byterian Church, one of
the churches that planted
Northside.*

*We encourage you to use
this space to take notes or
write questions. Sermon
discussion is the primary
material of study in our
Northside Groups.*

God feeds us with His Word

Sermon Text

1 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, 2 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." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

*6 " '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.' "*

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 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." 9 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. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 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. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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.

You will circle the communion station with others in a group of about 6.

Gluten-free wafers are located in the wooden boxes; grape juice is available upon request.

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

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.

Parents who would like for their nursery-aged children to be present and 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.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Words: Charles Wesley
Music: Rowland Pritchard
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*We go forth to love and
serve God and neighbor.*

God sends us out refreshed

It Is Finished

*Words: Thomas Kelly
Music: Clint Wells, Brian T.
Murphy
© 2005 Red Mountain
Music*

Song of Rejoicing

"It is finished!" – Sinners, hear it!
Tis the dying Victor's cry;
"It is finished!" – Angels bear it,
Bear the joyful truth on high:
"It is finished!"
Tell it through the earth and sky!
"It is finished!"
Tell it through the earth and sky!

Justice, from her awful station,
Bars the sinner's peace no more.
Justice views with approbation
What the Savior did and bore.
Grace and mercy
now display their boundless store.
Grace and mercy
now display their boundless store.

"It is finished!" – All is over,
Yes, the cup of wrath is drained.
Such the truth these words discover,
Thus the victory was obtained.
'Tis a victory none but Jesus could have gained.
'Tis a victory none but Jesus could have gained.

Crown the mighty Conqueror, crown him,
Who his people's foes o'ercame!
In the highest heaven enthrone him,
Men and angels sound his fame!
Great his glory!
Jesus bears a matchless name.
Great his glory!
Jesus bears a matchless name.

*At the end of the service,
please pick up your children
from the nursery.*

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!

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