



northside church

OF RICHMOND

December 15, 2013

Meditation

The child of God is, from necessity, a joyful man. His sins are forgiven, his soul is justified, his person is adopted, his trials are blessings, his conflicts are victories, his death is immortality, his future is a heaven of inconceivable, unthought-of, untold, and endless blessedness. With such a God, such a Savior, and such a hope, is he not, ought he not, to be a joyful man?

- Octavius Winslow

When the heart is full of joy, it always allows its joy to escape. It is like the fountain in the marketplace; whenever it is full it runs away in streams, and so soon as it ceases to overflow, you may be quite sure that it has ceased to be full. The only full heart is the overflowing heart.

- C.H. Spurgeon

*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. Declaring this together turns our hearts and minds toward Him.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Words: Edmund Sears
Music: Richard Storrs Willis
Public domain

CCLI #: 11107331

Psalm 22:22-23, 25-28

Please stand if able.

We gather in the presence of God

Song of Gathering

It came upon a midnight clear
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife,
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong.
And man, at war with man, hears not,
The love-song which they bring,
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

O ye, beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow.
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!*

People: *From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.*

Leader: *The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!*

People: *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.*

Song of Praise

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise.
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung,
Through every land, by every tongue.

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord,
And truth eternal is Thy Word.
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

In every land begin the song,
To every land the strains belong.
In cheerful sounds all voices raise,
And fill the world with loudest praise.

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!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

*Words: Isaac Watts (v 1-2),
Robert Spence (v 3), and
Thomas Ken (v 4)
Music: Alex Mejias
© 2009 5PM Records.*

Advent Reading

*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.
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.
For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
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.
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.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

Please read together.

Zephaniah 3:17

Great God From Thee

Words: John Newton
Music: Justin Smith
©2007 Justin Smith Music

We confess our sin and receive grace

Confession of Sin

Lord God, every day we are reminded that we fall short of Your character:

You are strong; we are blown about by whim,

You call for justice; we play favorites and prefer comfort,

You are holy through and through; our best efforts are marred by sin and cannot save us.

Oh how we need a Savior to ransom us from bondage!

Thank You for providing exactly what we need in Jesus.

Oh how we need continued renewal in Your image!

Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to continue Your work of salvation.

Forgive us our sins, and lead us to rest in Your grace. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

Song of Renewal

Great God from Thee there's nought concealed, His life and death in my behalf,
Thou seest my inward frame. And calls my sins His own.
To Thee I always stand revealed, exactly as I am.

Since I can hardly therefore bear,
What in myself I see,
How vile and dark must I appear,
Most holy God to Thee?

But since my Savior stands between,
In garments dyed in blood,
'Tis He instead of me is seen,
When I approach to God.

Thus though a sinner, I am safe,
He pleads before the throne,

What wondrous love, what mysteries,
In this appointment shine:
My breaches of the law are His,
And His obedience mine!

Great God from Thee there's nought concealed,
Thou seest my inward frame.
To Thee I always stand revealed, exactly as I am.

What wondrous love, what mysteries,
In this appointment shine:
My breaches of the law are His,
And His obedience mine!

We respond to the grace received

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

Passing of the Peace

Community Life

Prayers of the People

The world: Hope International - Christian microfinance organization

The Northside: Young Lives - ministry to teenage moms in the Northside

Our church: Development of "Advent hearts" that long for Christ's second coming

Offering

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

Song of Preparation

You are the God who loves,
You are the God who listens,
I cast my cares at Your feet.
You are the God who hears,
You are the God who answers,
You know just what I need.

You are the God who loves,
You are the God who listens,
I cast my cares at Your feet.
You are the God who hears,
You are the God who answers,
You know just what I need.

chorus (x2)

Nothing is impossible for You.
Heaven and earth are at Your command.
Nothing is impossible for You.
You are the great I AM.

repeat

chorus (x2)

All Who Call

*Words and music:
Josh Davis
©Proskuneo Ministries, Inc.*

*Romans 10:12-13
Luke 1:37*

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

God feeds us with His Word

Sermon Text

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:26-38

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

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

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

chorus

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.

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

The Sands of Time Are Sinking

*Words: Anne Cousins
(based on Samuel Ruther-
ford's letters)
Traditional folk tune (arr.
Philip Palmertree)
©2001 Philip Palmertree
Music.*

Revelation 19:6-10

Joy to the World

*Words: Isaac Watts
Music: 'Antioch' by Lowell
Mason
Public domain*

Psalms 98

Songs of Rejoicing

The sands of time are sinking,
the dawn of heaven breaks,
The summer morn I've sighed for,
the fair sweet morn awakes.
Dark had been the midnight
but dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
in Emmanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the Fountain
the deep sweet well of love.
The streams on earth I've tasted
more deep I'll drink above.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

There to an ocean fullness
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
in Emmanuel's land.

Oh! I am my Beloved's
and my Beloved is mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner
into His house of wine.
I stand upon His merit,
I know no other stand,
Not e'en where glory dwelleth
in Emmanuel's land.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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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