



# northside church

OF RICHMOND

***December 8, 2013***

## **Meditation**

"Is anything too hard for the LORD?"

Gen 18.14

"He lived not in sublime detachment or in ascetic isolation, but 'with us', as the 'fellowman of all men', crowded, busy, harassed, stressed and molested. No large estate gave him space, no financial capital guaranteed his daily bread, no personal staff protected him from interruptions and no power or influence protected him from injustice. He saved us from alongside us."

- Donald Macleod

*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.

**Come Holy Spirit, Come**

Words: Joseph Hart

Music: Hiram Ring

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# We gather in the presence of God

## Song of Gathering

Come Holy Spirit, come  
Let Thy bright beams arise;  
Dispel the darkness from our minds,  
And open all our eyes.

Convince us of our sin,  
Then lead to Jesus' blood,  
And to our wondering view reveal  
The secret love of God.

Revive our drooping faith,  
Our doubts and fears remove,  
And kindle in our breast the flame  
Of never-dying love.

'Tis Thine to cleanse the heart,  
To sanctify the soul,  
To pour fresh life in every part,  
And new-create the whole.

Dwell therefore in our hearts,  
Our minds from bondage free;  
Then we shall know, and praise, and love  
The Father, Son, and Thee.

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## Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.*

**People:** *Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
man and beast you save, O LORD.*

Leader: *How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*

**People:** *They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light do we see light.*

**Psalm 36:5-9**

*Please stand if able.*

## Song of Praise

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown His head;  
His Name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His Name.

Blessings abound wherever He reigns;  
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all the sons of want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Peculiar honors to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen!

### *Jesus Shall Reign*

*Words: Isaac Watts  
Music: John Hatton  
Public domain*

## Advent Reading

*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.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
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.

1 John 4:10

*In Christ Alone*

Words and music:  
Keith Getty & Stuart Townend  
© 2002 Thankyou Music

# We confess our sin and receive grace

## Confession of Sin

God and Father, You have called us to be Your followers and have made us one family.  
Yet we have not lived as one, and have not loved You with our whole person.  
Ambition has driven us, and we have chosen not to care for others when it is inconvenient.  
Pride has gripped us, and we have promoted ourselves rather than worship You.  
Fear has reigned in us, and we have tried to control You and manipulate others.

O Lord, forgive us for our many sins through the sacrifice of Christ.  
Subdue everything in us that is contrary to Your purposes.  
By Your Spirit, make us a community that is eager to do Your will and to walk in Your ways.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Pardon

*This is love: not that we loved God,  
but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

## Song of Renewal

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For every sin on Him was laid,  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Til He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

# We respond to the grace received

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

## Passing of the Peace

### Community Life

Work in Progress - Matt Lorish

### 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.*

# 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 Assistant Pastor P.D.  
Mayfield.*

## 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

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 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.*

### ***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

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

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

# God sends us out refreshed

## **The Doxology**

*Words: Thomas Ken  
Music: Louis Bourgeois  
Public domain*

## **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](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**

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