



northside church

OF RICHMOND

December 21, 2014

Meditation

But God says: Now I shall hide My majesty most thoroughly, shall allow My Son to become man, born of a virgin; let Him do good to men and preach them the forgiveness of sins. He shall act in the kindest manner possible; only bear in mind that this man is the same God who spoke in the desert at Mount Sinai to the Children of Israel. Believe, therefore, that it is He whom you are hearing. He has hidden His majesty in humanity, does not appear with lightning, thunder, or angels, but as one born of a poor virgin and speaking with men of the forgiveness of sins.

- Martin Luther, March 6, 1540

*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.

Just a Closer Walk

Words and music:
John C. Hallett
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CCLI #: 11107331

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

The prophet Isaiah tells of a coming King who will rule his people forever in justice and peace.

Please stand if able.

We gather in the presence of God

Song of Gathering

I am weak but Thou art strong;

Jesus, keep me from all wrong;

I'll be satisfied as long

As I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,

Grant it, Jesus, this my plea,

Daily walking close to Thee,

Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

chorus

When my feeble life is o'er,

Time for me will be no more;

Guide me gently, safely o'er,

to Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore!

chorus (x2)

Through this world of toil and snares,

If I falter, Lord, who cares?

Who with me my burden shares?

None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *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.*

People: ***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.***

Leader: *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.*

People: ***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.***

Song of Praise

Jesus, everlasting King,
accept the tribute which we bring,
Accept the well-deserved renown
And wear our praises as Your crown.

O send Your Spirit to impart,
Rest and repentance to our hearts,
Like the dear hour when from above,
We first received Your pledge of love.

chorus

The gladness of redemption's day,
Our hearts would wish it long to stay,
Nor let our faith forsake its hold,
Nor comforts sink, or love grow cold.

chorus

May every time of worship see
Your grace revealed more rich and free,
Till we are raised to sing Your name
At the great supper of the Lamb.

chorus

O that the months would roll away,
And bring the coronation day.
The King of Grace shall fill the throne,
With all His Father's glories on.

chorus (x2)

Jesus Everlasting King

*Words: Isaac Watts
(alt. by Matthew Smith)
Music: Matthew Smith
© 2003 detuned radio music*

Advent Reading

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said,

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.*

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Luke 1:39-56

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

Please read together.

Matthew 1:20b-21

***Jesus! What a Friend for
Sinners***

*Words: Wilbur Chapman
(v1 and 3), Charles Wesley
(v2)*

*Music: Rowland Pritchard
Public domain*

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

Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Song of Renewal

Jesus! What a friend for sinners!

Jesus! Lover of my soul;

Friends may fail me, foes assail me,

He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Hallelujah! What a friend!

Saving, helping, keeping, loving,

He is with me to the end.

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.

Jesus! I do now adore Him,

more than all in Him I find.

He hath granted me forgiveness,

I am His, and He is mine.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Hallelujah! What a friend!

Saving, helping, keeping, loving,

He is with me to the end.

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: Travis Johnson, continuing his cancer battle

The Northside: Young Men's Academy, ministry to teenage boys

Our church: Raun and Christina Swafford, staying in Chattanooga for now

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 (x2)

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 28:18-20

Isaiah 40:8

*Today's sermon is given
by Steve Byrd, ruling elder
at West End Presbyterian
Church.*

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

God feeds us with His Word

Sermon Text

*18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I
am with you always, to the end of the age."*

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

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

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light.
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
You hear Your people when we call.

Come, oh come.
Come, oh come.
Come, oh come,
To us.

When this old world drew on toward night
You came, but not in splendor bright
Not as a monarch, but the child
Of Mary blessed, mother mild

chorus

Thou, grieving that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
Hast found the medicine, full of grace,
To save and heal a ruined race.

chorus

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Will honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.

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.

Creator of the Stars of Night

*Words: Unknown author, 7th century; Alex Mejias
Music: Alex Mejias
© 2009 5PM Records*

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

God sends us out refreshed

Salvation to the Lamb

*Words: Joseph Hart,
alt. Justin Smith*

Music: Justin Smith

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*The title of this song comes
from Revelation 7:10, which
depicts the great multitude
of God's redeemed people
declaring "Salvation belongs
to our God who sits on the
throne, and to the Lamb!"*

*The "paschal lamb" was
the sacrifice at the first
Passover (see Exodus 12).
Here Jesus is spoken of as
the perfect Paschal Lamb
whose blood completely
atones for sin.*

Song of Rejoicing

Poor sinner come, cast off thy fear,
And raise thy drooping head.
Come sing with all poor sinners here,
Jesus, who once was dead.

Salvation sing no word more meet

To join to Jesus' name.

Let every thankful tongue repeat:

"Salvation to the Lamb,
salvation to the Lamb!"

Saints from the garden to the cross
Your conquering Lord pursue,
Who, dearly to redeem your loss
Groaned, bled, and died for you.

Now reigns victorious over death,
The glorious great I Am.
Let every soul repeat with faith,
"Salvation to the Lamb,
salvation to the Lamb!"

When we incurred the wrath of God,
Alas! What could be worse?
He came, and with His heart's own blood,
Redeemed us from the curse.

This **Paschal Lamb**, His blood can meet,
And cleanse ye from each stain.
Repeat, ye ransomed souls, repeat:
"Salvation to the Lamb,
salvation to the Lamb!
Salvation to the Lamb,
salvation to the Lamb!"

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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