



# northside church

OF RICHMOND

*May 4, 2014*

## **Meditation**

We tell ourselves, "Strong Christians pray a lot. If I were a stronger Christian, I'd pray more." Strong Christians do pray more, but they pray more because they realize how weak they are. They don't try to hide it from themselves. Weakness is the channel that allows them to access grace.

- Paul Miller, *A Praying Life*

*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.

### **Come Ye Sinners**

Words: Joseph Hart

Music: Matthew Smith

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CCLI #: 11107331

**Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

*Please stand if able.*

# **We gather in the presence of God**

## **Song of Gathering**

Come ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
weak and wounded, sick and sore.

Jesus, ready, stands to save you,

Full of pity joined with power.

He is able, He is able,

He is willing, doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come and welcome;

God's free bounty glorify:

True belief and true repentance,

every grace that brings you nigh.

Without money, without money

Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come ye weary, heavy laden,

Bruised and broken by the fall.

If you tarry till you're better,

you will never come at all.

Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
nor of fitness fondly dream.

All the fitness He requires

is to feel your need of Him.

This He gives you, this He gives you,

'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;

pleads the merit of His blood.

Venture on Him; venture wholly,

Let no other trust intrude.

None but Jesus, none but Jesus

Can do helpless sinners good.

*repeat*

## **Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: *It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,  
to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.*

**People:** *For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.*

Leader: *The righteous flourish like the palm tree  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.  
They are planted in the house of the LORD;  
they flourish in the courts of our God.*

**People:** *They still bear fruit in old age;  
they are ever full of sap and green,  
to declare that the LORD is upright;  
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.*

## Song of Praise

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us, sing,  
O praise him! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise him! O praise him!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise him! Alleluia!

Thou rising moon, in praise, rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice,  
O praise him! O praise him!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things, their Creator, bless,  
And worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, three in one,  
O praise him! O praise him!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*repeat*

## *All Creatures of Our God and King*

*Words: Francis of Assisi,  
1225*

*Music: Peter von Brachel,  
1623*

*Public domain*

## Scripture Reading

*And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.*

*"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Luke 15:11-24**

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

*Please read together.*

**Acts 10:43**

### **Depth of Mercy**

*Words: Charles Wesley  
Music: Jeff Koonce, Clint  
Wells, Brian T. Murphy  
© 2003 Red Mountain  
Music*

# **We confess our sin and receive grace**

## **Confession of Sin**

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have wandered from You like lost sheep.

We have elevated our desires above Your will.

We have broken Your holy laws.

Again and again, we have refused to listen to Your Spirit.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, and restore those who confess their faults.

Teach us to listen and obey.

Show us that life and health are only found in You.

Again and again, give us grace and strength to be Your disciples.

According to Your promises declared in Christ Jesus, to the glory of Your holy Name. 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**

Depth of mercy! Can there be  
mercy still reserved for me?  
Can my God His wrath forbear,  
me, the chief of sinners, spare?  
I have long withstood His grace,  
long provoked Him to His face,  
Would not hearken to His calls,  
grieved Him by a thousand falls.

I have spilt His precious blood,  
trampled on the Son of God,  
Filled with pangs unspeakable,  
I, who yet am not in hell!  
I my Master have denied,  
I afresh have crucified,  
And profaned His hallowed Name,  
put Him to an open shame.

Jesus speaks, and pleads His blood!  
He disarms the wrath of God;  
Now my Father's mercies move,  
justice lingers into love.  
There for me the Savior stands,  
shows His wounds and spreads His hands.  
God is love! I know, I feel;  
Jesus weeps and loves me still.

Pity from Thine eye let fall,  
by a look my soul recall;  
Now the stone to flesh convert,  
cast a look, and break my heart.  
Now incline me to repent,  
let me now my sins lament,  
Now my foul revolt deplore,  
weep, believe, and sin no more.

# 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: South Sudan - stability and nation building

The Northside: Youth Life Foundation - tutoring/mentoring for elementary and middle schoolers

Our church: Prayer training with Steve Byrd - Tuesday mornings this spring

## Offering

Today we are collecting an offering for the mercy fund in a tan basket in addition to the weekly general fund offering in the multi-colored basket.

The mercy fund is used for financial assistance to those in need from our church and the Northside.

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

## Song of Preparation

Your presence is here,

Your presence is here.

We no longer need a temple,  
for Your Spirit to draw near.

When we gather here together,  
Your word has made it clear,  
that this place is holy ground  
For Your presence is here.

Your mercy is here,

Your mercy is here.

We no longer make atonement,  
for Your mercy to draw near.

The blood of Christ has cleansed us,

Your word has made it clear,  
that we are a holy people  
for Your mercy is here.

Your justice is here,

Your justice is here.

We no longer fear oppression  
for Your justice will draw near.  
We're a light unto the nations,  
Your word has made it clear  
that we have a holy purpose,  
for your justice is here.

### *Your Presence Is Here*

*Words and music:*

*Kirk Ward*

*© 2008 Kirk Ward Music*

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

# God feeds us with His Word

**Matthew 18:1-14**

*1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

*5 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

*7 "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! 8 And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.*

*10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."*

**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  
Pastor Matt Lorish.*

## 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

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*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.*

### ***Be Thou My Vision***

*Words: Dallan Forgaill, 8th century; translated from ancient Irish to English by Mary E. Byrne  
Music: Slane, of Irish folk origin  
Public domain*

We go forth to love and  
serve God and neighbor.

# God sends us out refreshed

## New Creation

Words and music:  
Kirk Ward

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2 Corinthians 5:17

## Songs of Rejoicing

Anyone in Christ is a new creation!  
Anyone in Christ has been born again!  
Anyone in Christ is a new creation –  
The old has gone, and the new has come!

We are instruments of justice  
through the Word we have believed,  
that our righteousness is all a gift  
we have received.

*chorus*

Folk from ev'ry tribe around the world  
and throughout history,  
through the blood of Jesus Christ  
have won the victory!  
Once we lived a life of slavery,  
but our hearts have now been freed;  
whom the Spirit has set free  
they shall be free indeed!

Arrogance has gone, humility has come.  
Selfishness has gone, hospitality has come.  
Complaining has gone, patience has come.  
Bitterness has gone, joyfulness has come.

*chorus*

The redemption of creation  
is the battle that we fight.  
In a world that's filled with darkness  
we will shine a light.

Foolishness has gone, wisdom has come.  
Greediness has gone, generosity has come.  
Loneliness has gone, fellowship has come.  
Idolatry has gone, worship has come.

*chorus*

## 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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