



northside church

OF RICHMOND

December 7, 2014

Meditation

You can always find someone who has a happier marriage, more delightful children, a higher income, greater public recognition, or whatever surface successes touch on the subterranean depths of your desires. Just let such comparisons mix with your less worthy desires and envy will rear its ugly head again—an envy that increases, not lessens, with age; an envy that may be petty but will be all-consuming; an envy that focuses on those most competitive, and therefore closest, to your own gifts and calling; an envy that is finally self-destructive because what the envier cannot enjoy, no one is allowed to.

- Os Guinness

*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.

All Who Call

Words and music:
Josh Davis

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Romans 10:12-13
Luke 1:37

CCLI #: 11107331

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 16,
22-24

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promises that he will save his people and gather them under a royal shepherd who comes from the line of David.

Please stand if able.

We gather in the presence of God

Song of Gathering

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.

Abba, Father,
You are near to all who call
upon Your name.
Savior, Healer,
You are near to all who call
upon Your name.

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)

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: *"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.*

People: ***I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.***

Leader: *I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey.
And I will judge between sheep and sheep.*

People: ***And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."***

Song of Praise

Come thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it —
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my **Ebenezer**,
hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.

O, to grace, how great a debtor,
daily I'm constrained to be.
Let that grace, now, like a **fetter**,
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it —
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it —
seal it for Thy courts above.

repeat

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Words: Robert Robinson
Music: Ashael Nettleton
Public domain

“Ebenezer” means “stone of help.” It was the name of a monument to God’s faithfulness erected by Samuel, a judge of ancient Israel. See 1 Samuel 7:12.

A “fetter” is a chain or shackle placed on the feet.

Advent Reading

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

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

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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Luke 1:26-38

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

Please read together.

1 John 4:10

***How Deep the Father's
Love For Us***

*Words and music:
Stuart Townend
© 1995 Thankyou Music*

We confess our sin and receive grace

Confession of Sin

Holy God, we are guilty - of rejecting Your commands, of doubting Your promises,
of proud self-reliance, of neglect to rest in You.

Daily we fail to love You and our neighbor as we ought.

Praise You for providing the Savior in Jesus, who takes our sin and gives us His righteousness!

Lord, continue the work of salvation in us:

Conquer our weakness with Your strength, blot out our selfishness with Your glory.

Meet us in our suffering and disappointments, refine us as You see fit.

Keep us from returning to sin's bondage, brighten our hearts with Your grace.

Redirect our desires so that we delight deeply in You. 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

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son,
to make a wretch His treasure!

How great the pain of searing loss,
the Father turned His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen one,
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
no gifts, no power, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

repeat

We respond to the grace received

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

Passing of the Peace

Community Life

New Member Vows - Anna Hambly, Zippy Francis

Offering

On the first Sunday of each month Northside collects an offering for the mercy fund using 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

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise!
Triumph o'er the shades of night.

Dayspring from on high, be near.
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Were it ever without Thee.
Joyless is the day's return,
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,

Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine!
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief.

More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.
repeat

Dayspring from on high, be near.
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dayspring

*Words: Charles Wesley
Music: Alex Mejias
© 2007 High Street Publishing*

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

Proverbs 14:30

Isaiah 40:8

*Today's sermon is given by
Pastor Matt Lorish.*

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

God feeds us with His Word

Sermon Text

*A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh,
but envy makes the bones rot.*

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

Jesus, Lord of life and glory,
bend from heaven Thy gracious ear.
While our waiting souls adore Thee,
friend of helpless sinners, hear.

From the depth of nature's blindness,
from the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness,
from the pride that lurks within.

By Thy mercy, O deliver us,
good Lord, good Lord.
By Thy mercy, O deliver us,
good Lord, good Lord.

When temptation sorely presses,
in the day of Satan's power,
In our times of deep distresses,
in each dark and trying hour.

When the world around is smiling,
in the time of wealth and ease,
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling,
in the day of health and peace.

chorus

In the weary hours of sickness,
in the times of grief and pain,
When we feel our mortal weakness,
when all human help is vain,

In the solemn hour of dying,
in the awful judgment day,
May our souls, on Thee relying,
find Thee still our rock and stay.

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.

By Thy Mercy

*Words: James Cummins
Music: Greg Thompson
©2004 Greg Thompson*

We go forth to love and
serve God and neighbor.

God sends us out refreshed

Blessed Be Your Name

Words and music:
Matt and Beth Redman
© 2002 Thankyou Music

Job 1:21-22
Psalm 113:2-3
Daniel 2:20-23

Song of Rejoicing

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say,

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
Blessed be Your glorious name!

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be,
Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name.

Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say,

chorus (x2)

You give and take away,
You give and take away,
My heart will choose to say
"Lord, blessed be Your name."

repeat

chorus

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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