



# northside church

OF RICHMOND

*December 22, 2013*

## **Meditation**

The New Testament writers regard Jesus' death and resurrection as the central acts of history. His cross and empty tomb are redemptive. The same writers regard two prior events as necessary preconditions to his death and resurrection - his incarnation and sinless life. . . . .

Christ's saving accomplishment, then, with a narrow focus, consist of his death and resurrection. But when viewed with a broader lens, it includes everything from his incarnation to his return.

- Robert Peterson

*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.

### **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*

### **Psalm 40:1-3, 9-10, 16**

*Please stand if able.*

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

## **Song of Gathering**

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 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, 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, 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)*

## **Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: *I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.*

**People:** *He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.*

Leader: *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.*

**People:** *I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;  
behold, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, O LORD.*

Leader: *I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
from the great congregation.*

**People:** *May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who love your salvation  
say continually, "Great is the LORD!"*

## Song of Praise

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you,  
and cause you to stand,  
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials your pathways shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;  
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell  
should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

That soul, though all hell  
should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

### *How Firm a Foundation*

*Words: John Rippon  
Music: Early American  
melody  
Public domain*

## Advent Reading

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.*

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

*Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.  
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.*

*They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.  
In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples - of him shall the nations  
inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

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

Please read together.

Matthew 1:20b-21

Mighty To Save

Words and music: Reuben  
Morgan, Ben Fielding  
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Zephaniah 3:17, Hebrews  
2:10, Ezekiel 38:20

# We confess our sin and receive grace

## Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, You have ushered in a new creation in Your Son,  
yet we draw back and live like before.  
You tell us to come to You in desperation,  
yet we try to avoid You while we attempt to patch up our lives.  
You invite us to come to You so that You can show us mercy,  
yet sometimes we come only to impress You.  
You tell us to come to You trusting in Your love,  
yet we hesitate because we doubt You will provide.  
Forgive us our sins, convince us of Your love, overwhelm us with Your grace,  
and melt our hearts with Your mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, 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

Everyone needs compassion,  
love that's never failing.  
Let mercy fall on me.  
Everyone needs forgiveness,  
the kindness of a Savior,  
The hope of nations.

Savior, He can move the mountains,  
My God is mighty to save,  
He is mighty to save!  
Forever, Author of salvation  
He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave!

So take me as You find me,  
all my fears and failures.  
Fill my life again.  
I give my life to follow,  
everything I believe in.  
Now I surrender.

*chorus*

Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.  
Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

*chorus*

# 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 and Amy Johnson - returning to Uganda to pack up

The Northside: Young Men's Academy - ministry to middle school boys

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

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.

*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!

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 (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.

### ***Just a Closer Walk***

*Words and music:  
John C. Hallett  
Public domain*

CCLI #: 11107331

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

# God sends us out refreshed

## ***On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand***

Words: Samuel Stennet  
Music: Christopher Miner  
© 1997 Christopher Miner  
Music

*In this song the Christian journey is compared to the Israelites' anticipated entrance to the promised land of Canaan on the other side of the Jordan River. They had endured many hardships while waiting for God to fulfill his promises of land and rest. Though we endure difficulties in this life, in Christ we can look forward to when God's promises will come to fruition.*

## **Song of Rejoicing**

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,  
and cast a wishful eye,  
To Canaan's fair and happy land,  
where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains,  
shines one eternal day.  
There God, the Son forever reigns,  
and scatters night away.

I am bound, (I am bound)  
I am bound, (I am bound)  
I am bound for the promised land.  
I am bound, (I am bound)  
I am bound, (I am bound)  
I am bound for the promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath,  
can reach that healthful shore,  
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,  
are felt and feared no more.

*chorus*

When shall I reach that happy place,  
and be forever blest?  
When shall I see my Father's face,  
and in His bosom rest?

*chorus (x2)*

## **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**

P.O. Box 26175 / Richmond, VA 23260  
[www.northsidechurchva.org](http://www.northsidechurchva.org) / 804.516.3322

### **Staff**

Matt Lorish - Pastor

[matt@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:matt@northsidechurchva.org)

P.D. Mayfield - Assistant Pastor, Director of Urban Fellows

[pd@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:pd@northsidechurchva.org)

Joel Passmore - Pastoral Intern, Worship Director

[joel@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:joel@northsidechurchva.org)

Ashleigh Padgett - Administrative Assistant

[ashleigh@northsidechurchva.org](mailto:ashleigh@northsidechurchva.org)