



# northside church

## OF RICHMOND

*January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

### **Meditations**

"When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said "Repent", He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

- the 1st of Martin Luther's 95 Theses

*But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

2 Peter 3:8-9

*Readings to help you engage with God and worship, as Jesus said, "in spirit and in truth."*

*When you hear the first song begin, please come take a seat and continue preparing for worship by praying, reading the meditation quotes above, or singing along.*

## ***Dayspring***

*Words: Charles Wesley*

*Music: Alex Mejias*

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CCLI #: 11107331

*A recognition of the presence of God among us, which influences the posture of our hearts.*

## ***Psalms 146***

*Please stand if able.*

## **Song of Gathering**

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, radiance divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief.

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

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

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

### **Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: *Praise the LORD!*

People: ***Praise the LORD, O my soul!***

***I will praise the LORD as long as I live;***

***I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.***

Leader: *Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.*

People: ***Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,  
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.***

Leader: *The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.*

People: ***The LORD watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.***

Leader: *The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations.*

People: ***Praise the LORD!***

## Song of Praise

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 requireth  
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.

## Scripture Reading

*Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*

*A voice cries:*

*"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.  
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## *Come Ye Sinners*

*Words: Joseph Hart  
Music: Matthew Smith  
© 2000 detuned radio music*

**Isaiah 40:1-5**

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

*Please read together.*

***I Peter 3:18a***

***Rock of Ages***

*Words: Augustus Toplady  
Music: Thomas Hastings  
Public domain*

# We confess our sin and receive grace

## Confession of Sin

O Lord, my every sense and affection, is a snare to me.  
I can scarce open my eyes but I envy those above me, or despise those below.  
I covet the honor and riches of the mighty, and am proud and unmerciful to the rags of others.  
If I behold beauty it is a bait to lust, or see poverty, it stirs up loathing and disdain;  
My heart is full of slander and vanity!  
Am I successful? What a fuel for pride!  
Am I in need? What an occasion for fear!  
Am I gifted? See how I run after applause.  
Am I weak? See how I despise what I do not have.  
Am I in authority? I am prone to serve my own interests.  
Am I lacking? I begrudge the blessing of God in the lives of others.  
You know that all these are pitfalls for my soul, and that my greatest snare is myself.

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Pardon

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.*

## Song of Renewal

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands,  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands.  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone,  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked come to Thee for dress,  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace.  
Foul, I to the fountain fly,  
Wash me, Savior, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyes shall close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

# We respond to the grace received

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

## Community Life

Passing of the Peace

*The peace God made with us is extended to those around us.*

## Prayers of the People

**The world:** Hope International, a Christian microfinance organization

**The Northside:** Youth Life Foundation, a tutoring ministry in Highland Park

**Our church:** Praying Life seminar this coming Saturday

## Offering

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

## Song of Preparation

God of my life, to Thee I call,

Afflicted at Thy feet I fall.

When the great water floods prevail,

Leave not my trembling heart to fail.

*chorus*

That were a grief I could not bear,  
Didst Thou not hear and answer prayer.  
But a prayer-hearing, -answering God,  
Supports me under every load.

*chorus*

Poor though I am, despised, forgot,  
Yet God, my God, forgets me not.  
And he is safe and must succeed,  
For whom the Lord is sure to plead.

*chorus*

Friend of the friendless and the faint,  
Where should I lodge my deep complaint?  
Where but with Thee, whose open door,  
Invites the helpless and the poor!

## **God of My Life, To Thee I Call**

Words: William Cowper  
Music: Clint Wells, Brian T. Murphy and Benj Pocta  
© 2007 Red Mountain Music

*Here's another way to phrase the last 2 lines of the chorus:  
When you put your faith in Jesus he becomes your powerful advocate, and you can be confident of your spiritual safety and profit in any circumstance.*

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

**Matthew 3:1-12**

**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. Sermon  
discussion is the primary  
material of study in our  
Northside Groups.*

# God feeds us with His Word

## Sermon Text

*1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ' "*

*Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.' "*

*4 Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*

*7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

*11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."*

**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

When you are ready, please come to one of the communion stations.  
You will circle the communion station with others in a group of about 6.  
Gluten-free wafers are located in the wooden boxes; grape juice is available upon request.  
If you would like, a communion distributor will pray for your children.  
There is a person at the back of the fellowship hall ready to pray with and for you, if desired.

## Song of Communion

I have a Maker,	I have a Father,
He formed my heart.	He calls me His own.
Before even time began,	He’ll never leave me,
My life was in His hands.	No matter where I go.

I have a Maker,	<i>chorus</i>
He formed my heart.	
Before even time began,	<i>chorus</i>
My life was in His hands.	

He knows my name,  
He knows my every thought.  
He sees each tear that falls,  
and He hears me when I call.

*Parents who would like for their nursery-aged children to be present and prayed for during communion meal should pick them up at this time.*

**1 Corinthians 11:23b-26**

*Communion at Northside is a patient, relaxed time. As others take communion please feel free to pray, sing along, or talk quietly with your neighbor.*

**He Knows My Name**  
  
Words, music: Tommy Walker  
© 1996 Doulos Publishing

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

# God sends us out refreshed

## ***Victory In Jesus***

*Words and music: Eugene  
Monroe Bartlett  
Public domain*

## **Song of Rejoicing**

I heard an old, old story,  
how a Savior came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary  
to save a wretch like me;  
I heard about His groaning,  
of His precious blood's atoning,  
Then I repented of my sins  
and won the victory.

O victory in Jesus,  
my Savior, forever.  
He sought me and bought me  
with His redeeming blood;  
He loved me ere I knew Him,  
and all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory  
beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing,  
of His cleansing pow'r revealing.  
How He made the lame to walk again  
and caused the blind to see;  
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,  
come and heal my broken spirit,"  
And somehow Jesus came and brought  
to me the victory.

*chorus*

I heard about a mansion  
He has built for me in glory.  
And I heard about the streets of gold  
beyond the crystal sea;  
About the angels singing,  
and the old redemption story,  
And some sweet day I'll sing to Him  
the song of victory.

*chorus*

*At the end of the service,  
please pick up your children  
from the nursery.*

## **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**

Each Sunday at 4pm in the fellowship hall of Battery Park Christian Church, located on the corner of Brook Rd and Bellevue Ave.

Visitors are always welcome!

### **Contact**

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