



# northside church

## OF RICHMOND

***December 13, 2015***

### **Meditation**

God harnessed the forces of nature and controlled the events of history to redeem you. Will he abandon you now in your moment of need?

- Paul Tripp

*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.

### **Before I Knew**

Words and music: Kirk Ward  
© 2002 Kirk Ward Music

CCLI #: 11107331

# We gather in the presence of God

## **Song of Gathering**

Before I knew what freedom was,  
Jesus set me free.

With no control, a slave to sin,  
God was my enemy.

But then He broke my rusty chains  
to share eternity.

Before I knew what freedom was,  
Jesus set me free.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, Jesus set me free!

Before I knew what loving was,  
He showed His love for me.  
He knew me in my mother's womb,  
He knew my sinful tendencies.

Adopted by His saving grace  
into His family.

Before I knew what loving was,  
He showed His love for me.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, He showed His love for me!

Before I knew what living was,  
He gave His life for me.  
I was defeated in my sins,  
death had the victory.  
Then all my guilt was placed on Him,  
That day on Calvary.  
Before I knew what living was,  
He gave His life for me.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, He gave His life for me!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah, Jesus set me free!

### **Micah 5:2-5**

The prophet Micah bring a word from God, saying that a mighty Ruler will come from Bethlehem who will shepherd God's people into lasting rest and peace.

Please stand if able.

## **Welcome and Call to Worship**

Leader: *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*

**People: *Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.***

Leader: *And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.*

**People: *And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.***

## 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  
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*"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.*

## Scripture Reading

*And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**Hebrews 9:27-28**

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

Please read together.

Matthew 1:20b-21

### 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

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# We confess our sin and receive grace

## Confession of Sin

Almighty and merciful Father,  
we come to you at Advent with the brokenness of the world in our eyes,  
the cries of injustice, loneliness, and sadness in our ears,  
and the failures and confusion of sin in our hearts.

O promised Christ: We are a world at war; our peace depends on your coming.  
We are an unfulfilled, longing people; our hope depends upon your coming.  
We are a sinful people; our pardon depends on your coming.

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, forgive our sins, comfort our hearts,  
and lift our eyes to look for your glorious return with hope and joy.  
Come, Lord Jesus! 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

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)

# We respond to the grace received

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

## Passing of the Peace

## Community Life

Update and prayer - Finance Committee

## Offering

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

## Song of Preparation

My God is awesome, He can move mountains,  
Keep me in the valley, hide me from the rain.  
My God is awesome, heals me when I'm broken,  
Strength where I've been weakened,  
forever He will reign.

He's mighty, He's mighty, He's mighty, He's mighty!

Awesome, awesome!

He's holy, He's holy, He's holy, He's holy!

Awesome, awesome!

*repeat*

My God is awesome, awesome,  
awesome, awesome!

My God is awesome, awesome,  
awesome, awesome!

He's great, He's great, He's great, He's great!

Awesome, awesome!

Provider, Provider, Provider, Provider!

Awesome, awesome!

My God is awesome, Savior of the whole world  
Giver of salvation, by His stripes I am healed.

Protector, Protector, Protector, Protector!

Awesome, awesome!

My God is awesome, today I am forgiven,  
His grace is why I'm living, praise His holy name!

*chorus*

Deliverer, Deliverer, Deliverer, Deliverer!

Awesome, awesome!

### **Awesome**

Words and music:

Charles Jenkins

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

# God feeds us with His Word

**Matthew 25:1-13**

## Sermon Text

*“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.*

*6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’*

*7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’*

*9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’*

*10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.*

*11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’*

*12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’*

*13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.*

**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  
Rev. Brian Fletcher,  
Associate Pastor at Spring  
Run Presbyterian Church.*

## 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, nut-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

There's nothing worth more,  
that will ever come close,  
No thing can compare, You're our living hope.  
Your presence, Lord.

I've tasted and seen, of the sweetest of loves,  
Where my heart becomes free,  
and my shame is undone,  
in Your presence, Lord.

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here,  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere.  
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for,  
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord.

*repeat*

There's nothing worth more,  
that will ever come close,  
No thing can compare, You're our living hope.  
Your presence, Lord.

I've tasted and seen, of the sweetest of loves,  
Where my heart becomes free,  
and my shame is undone,  
in Your presence, Lord.

*chorus*

Let us become more aware of Your presence,  
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness.

*repeat*

*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.*

## Holy Spirit

*Words and music:  
Bryan & Katie Torwalt  
© 2011 Bryan & Katie  
Torwalt*

*2 Corinthians 3:17  
Psalm 96: 8-13*

*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  
life is compared to when the  
Israelites looked forward to  
entering rest in the promised  
land of Canaan on the other  
side of the Jordan River.  
Though we endure difficul-  
ties in this life, in Christ we  
look forward with hope 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  
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