



northside church

OF RICHMOND

December 11th, 2011

Meditation

"The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity – hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because at the Father's will Jesus became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross."

- J.I. Packer

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.

Jesus, Cast a Look On Me

Words: John Berridge
Music: Matthew Perryman
Jones
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CCLI #: 11107331

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

Ezekiel 34:11-15

Please stand if able.

Song of Gathering

Jesus cast a look on me,
Give me sweet simplicity;
Make me poor and keep me low,
Seeking only Thee to know.

All that feeds my busy pride,
Cast it evermore aside;
Bid my will to Thine submit,
Lay me humbly at Thy feet.

Make me like a little child,
Of my strength and wisdom spoiled;
Seeking only in Thy light,
Walking only in Thy might.

Leaning on Thy loving breast,
Where a weary soul can rest;
Feeling well the peace of God,
Flowing from His precious blood.

In this posture let me live,
And hosannas daily give;
In this temper let me die,
And hosannas ever cry!

We gather in the presence of God

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.*

People: ***As a shepherd seeks out his flock
when he is among his sheep that have been scattered,
so will I seek out my sheep,***

Leader: *and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick darkness.*

People: ***And I will bring them out from the peoples
and gather them from the countries,
and will bring them into their own land.***

Leader: *And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines,
and in all the inhabited places of the country.*

People: ***I will feed them with good pasture,
and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land.***

Leader: *There they shall lie down in good grazing land,
and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.*

People: ***I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,
and I myself will make them lie down,
declares the Lord GOD."***

Songs of Praise

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

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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Scripture Reading

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, 11 "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." 13 And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Isaiah 7:10-14

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

Please read together.

1 Peter 2:24

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

Heavenly Father, You told us to love You with our whole being, but we did not.
We fled from You in unbelief.
You told us to love our neighbor, but we have not.
Instead of loving them, we have, at times, wished harm upon them.
Instead of speaking well of them, we have gossiped.
Instead of reconciling with our neighbors, we have held on to bitterness.
Instead of giving, we have taken. Instead of forgiving, we have sought revenge.
Forgive us our sins, and give us faith to trust You.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed.*

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.

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: Jobs for Life, a program starting in January

Our church: To be a church marked by goodness

Offering

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

Song of Preparation

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.

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.

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."

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.

***Come Thou Long
Expected Jesus***

*Words: Charles Wesley
Music: Rowland Pritchard
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*Our mind, body, and spirit
are nourished with food
that does not perish.*

Matthew 1:18-25

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

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, 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. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

Jesus, the Lord, my Savior is,
My Shepherd, and my God.
My light, my strength, my joy, my bliss,
And I, His grace, record.

Yea, all I need, in Jesus dwells,
And there, it dwells for me.
'Tis Christ, my earthen vessel, fills,
With treasures rich and free.

Mercy and truth and righteousness,
And peace, most richly meet,
In Jesus Christ, the King of grace,
In whom I stand complete.

As through the wilderness, I roam,
His mercies, I'll proclaim.
And when I safely reach my home,
I'll still adore His name.

"Worthy the Lamb," shall be my song,
For, He for me was slain.
And me, with all the heavenly throng,
Shall join, and say, "Amen."

chorus

Jesus, the Lord, my Savior is,
My Shepherd, and my God.
My light, my strength, my joy, my bliss,
And I, His grace, record.

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.

Jesus, The Lord, My Savior Is

*Words: William Gadsby
Music: Sandra McCracken
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*We go forth to love and
serve God and neighbor.*

God sends us out refreshed

Jesus Shall Reign

*Words: Isaac Watts
Music: John Hatton
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Song of Rejoicing

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His Name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His Name.

Blessings abound wherever He reigns;
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

*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), 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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