



# northside church

OF RICHMOND

*December 18, 2016*

## **Meditation**

The Kingdom of God is present in our Lord's proclamation of the kingdom and in his healing of the sick. The healing miracles were not separate or merely a benevolent addenda to his proclamation. Nor were his acts of healing merely products of his compassion. They were themselves embodied proclamations of the nature of the kingdom...The kingdom of God is about salvation, the return of health, removing the corruption of sin, and restoring man in the entirety of his existence, including his bodily existence.

- Michael Williams, *Far As the Curse is Found: the Covenant Story of Redemption*

*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.*

*The Holy God is present with us in worship, and He invites us to come to Him with true adoration.*

### **Oh Give Thanks**

*Words and music:  
Judith McAllister*

*Psalms 107 and 118*

*CCLI #: 11107331*

### **Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7**

*The prophet Isaiah tells of a coming King who will rule his people forever in justice and peace.*

*Please stand if able.*

# God calls us into His presence to worship

## **Song of Gathering**

Oh give thanks unto the Lord,  
For He is good, yes He is good!  
Oh give thanks unto the Lord,  
For He is good, yes He is good!

For He is worthy, worthy!  
For He is good, yes He is good!  
For He is worthy, worthy!  
For He is good, yes He is good!

## **Call to Worship**

Leader: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

**People:** ***You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.***

Leader: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

**People:** ***Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.***

## Song of Praise

Jesus, everlasting King,  
accept the tribute which we bring,  
Accept the well-deserved renown  
And wear our praises as Your crown.

O send Your Spirit to impart,  
Rest and repentance to our hearts,  
Like the dear hour when from above,  
We first received Your pledge of love.

*chorus*

The gladness of redemption's day,  
Our hearts would wish it long to stay,  
Nor let our faith forsake its hold,  
Nor comforts sink, or love grow cold.

## Confession of Sin

Holy God, You have prepared Your salvation in the presence of all peoples,  
yet we are lukewarm about Your Son's coming.  
We confess that we have not followed the light of Your Word,  
and have not been consoled by Your presence.  
Too often we have sought comforts of our own design,  
and have refused His peace on earth.

Forgive our unbelief, and renew us by Your Holy Spirit that we might eagerly worship You.  
Help us once again find the coming and work of our Savior to be our greatest joy.  
Amen.

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Pardon

*"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land."*

*chorus*

May every time of worship see  
Your grace revealed more rich and free,  
Till we are raised to sing Your name  
At the great supper of the Lamb.

*chorus*

O that the months would roll away,  
And bring the coronation day.  
The King of Grace shall fill the throne,  
With all His Father's glories on.

*chorus (x2)*

## *Jesus Everlasting King*

*Words: Isaac Watts  
(alt. by Matthew Smith)  
Music: Matthew Smith  
© 2003 detuned radio music*

*Matthew 21:1-15*

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

*Jeremiah 23:5*

## ***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*

*Being reconciled with God through Christ enables us to seek peace with each other and participate in His work.*

*God designed worship to include the voluntary giving of offerings by His people.*

## **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, 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)*

## **Passing of the Peace**

## **Community Life**

New Member Vows: Rob and Julie Hodous

## **Offering**

## Scripture Reading

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## Song of Preparation

Draw me close to You, never let me go.  
I lay it all down again,  
to hear You say that I'm Your friend.  
Lord, You're my desire; no one else will do.  
'Cause nothing else can take Your place,  
to feel the warmth of Your embrace.  
Help me find the way, bring me back to You.

Oh, oh...  
You're all I want. You're all I've ever needed.  
You're all I want – help me know You are near!  
Oh, oh...  
You're all I want. You're all I've ever needed.  
You're all I want – help me know You are near!  
Help me know You are near!

Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
to the cross where Thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
to Thy precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,  
by the pow'r of grace divine;  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,  
and my will be lost in Thine.

*chorus*

**Romans 8:18-30**

### ***Draw Me Close***

*Words and music:  
Kelly Carpenter  
©1994 Mercy / Vineyard  
Publishing*

### ***Draw Me Nearer***

*Words and music:  
Fanny Crosby  
Public domain*

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

# God feeds us with His Word

## Sermon Text

### John 9

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10 So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" 28 And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.

### 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  
Matthew Capone, Covenant  
Seminary student under care  
of Tidewater Presbytery.

## 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, 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

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 out with renewed  
faith to love our God and  
our neighbors.*

### **How Great Thou Art**

*Words and music:  
Stuart K. Hine  
© 1949 & 1953*

# God sends us out refreshed

## Song of Rejoicing

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the works Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul,  
my Savior, God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul,  
my Savior, God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son, not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in –  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died, to take away my sin.

*chorus*

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim,  
“My God, how great Thou art!”

*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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