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## A Glance at the Week

### Monday

7:00 am Men's Discussion (Zoom)

6:30 pm Small Group (Zoom)

## Church Contact Information

*Office Phone:* 651-698-3889

*Office Hours:* Thurs & Fri 1:00-6:00 p.m.

*Office Admin* ([secretary@randolphheights.org](mailto:secretary@randolphheights.org))

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## Looking Ahead

### Study in Proverbs: Finding Wisdom & Living Wisely

11/21 -	Christ the King Sunday	
11/28 -	Hope in Sorrow	Isaiah 40:1-11
12/05 -	Light in Darkness	Isaiah 9:1-7
12/12 -	Healing from Brokenness	Isaiah 11:1-10
12/19 -	Home from Exile	Isaiah 35:1-10
12/26 -		



## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

## December 05, 2021

9:30am Discussion

10:30am Worship

[www.randolphheights.org](http://www.randolphheights.org)

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## We are glad you're here!

This is a community which strives to worship and serve God together. Within this community, people freely explore their personal questions about God and the Bible. It's together that we can better learn the breadth and depth of the Gospel and how it works out in our lives. Then, through the grace and hope of the gospel, we serve those in need and work together towards a thriving community.

This program is organized under five headings as described below:

**Gathering:** We remember God of Creation. The creator is amazing, perfect, powerful, good and is worthy of our worship and praise. This helps center and prepare our hearts for a time of worship.

**Confession and Renewal** reminds us that this world is not as God originally intended it. We express our grief and sorrow over the brokenness of this world and of our own lives. Our need for grace never goes away, and it is only by faith in Jesus that we can be made right with God. Within these words of renewal we recognize the truth that God's redemption of his people has been accomplished in Jesus.

**Thanksgiving** is our response to the redemptive plan of God. It is also an opportunity to express our thanks tangibly.

**Ministry of the Word** is expressed through reading our scripture passage for the day, listening to the Word preached, and responding with words of prayer from the congregation.

The **Benediction** is a good word to be sent out on.

*We encourage you to spend some time before the service begins and note how it flows. You are also encouraged to take this bulletin with you to use for personal devotional time throughout the week.*

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## Scripture from Isaiah 9:1-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan —

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness

a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God!

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## Pastoral Prayer

L God Calls us to be a praying people. Let us join in prayer, offering our praise, thanksgiving, and intercession to God.

### Open Petition

After each petition the Leader will say:

L Lord in your mercy

A Hear our prayer. (Response from Congregation)

~or~

L Let us Give God Thanks

A We give You thanks O Lord.

L Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. (Eph 3:20-21)

### \*Life in the Body

### Benediction

L May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us, and the love of God, which enables us to love all, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body, make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

~ based on 2 Corinthians 13:13 [14]

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## Reflections

Humankind cannot save itself.

~ Bob Dylan, in response to his discomfort while singing, 'We are the World'

Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

~ Martin Luther King Jr., *The Essential Writings and Speeches*

People will do anything, no matter how absurd, in order to avoid facing their own souls. One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious.

~ Carl Jung, 1875-1961, *Swiss Psychiatrist*

Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness.

~ Anne Frank, 1929-1945, *German-Dutch Diarist of Jewish Heritage*

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## PRELUDE

*Micah 6:6 – With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God?*

*All Sing: Come, Lord Jesus, Come*

Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

## Call to Worship

- L Sing a new song to the LORD! Let the whole earth sing to the LORD! Sing to the LORD; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.
- A *Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods.*
- L O nations of the world, recognize the LORD; recognize that the LORD is glorious and strong. Let all the earth tremble before him. Tell all the nations, "The LORD reigns!"
- A *Bring your offering and come into his courts. He will judge all peoples fairly.*
- L Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!
- A *Let the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he is coming! He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with his truth.*

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## The Lord's Table *(Offered 1st Sunday of Month)*

### Invitation to the Table

- L This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

- A *We receive this food gladly, believing, as we eat, that Jesus is our lifegiving food and drink and that he will come again to call us to the wedding feast of the Lamb.*

### Prayer of Thanks

- A *Almighty God, Source of all life and love,  
we live in your world, which you are always  
creating and sustaining by your power,  
You have so made us that we can know and love you,  
trust and serve you.*

*We give you thanks, that you loved the world so much  
that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him  
may not die but have eternal life. Amen.*

### Words of institution

- L The Lord Jesus, on the night 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, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Cor 11:23-26, NIV

### Distribution of the Elements

*Puer Natus Est - A Child is Born*

Daniel Justice Snoke

♩ = 110

A child is born un-to us a son has been giv - en up-

- on whose should-er pow-er rests; of his peace will be no end. He shall be  
My soul wil

called al-might-y God, E - ter-nal Fa - ther Prince of Peace He shall be  
mag - ni-fy the Lord, Who has done might-y things for me. My soul wil

called al-might-y God, E - ter-nal Fa - ther Prince of Peace  
mag - ni-fy the Lord, Who has done might-y things for me.

*All Sing: Canticle of the Turning*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the one who waits.  
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears,  
For the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn (*refrain*)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forbears heard  
is the promise that holds us bound,  
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around (*refrain*)

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## Advent Candle Lighting

L We relight the candle of HOPE and we light the candle for PEACE.  
As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace. From the prophet Isaiah:

A *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

L Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (– John 14:27) Let us pray:

A *Gracious God, Grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and with other be peacefully resolved. Help us to see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give us the courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only, are the giver of lasting peace. Amen.*

### Prayer of Adoration (followed by Lord's Prayer)

L Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; we praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and for ever. Amen.

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**Scripture** Isaiah 9:1-7 (found on Page 15)

**Series** Advent 2021

**Sermon** Light in Darkness

### Profession of Faith

A *In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem to become one with us.  
In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea to teach us how to live.  
In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary to bear away our sin.  
In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden to defeat death's power over us.  
In love you ascended beyond the clouds to be our reigning Lord.  
You came to love us so that we need never feel unloved, deserted, alone, condemned*

*Our only hope is Jesus Christ.  
After we refused to live in the image of God,  
he was born of the virgin Mary,  
sharing our genes and our instincts,  
entering our culture, speaking our language,  
fulfilling the law of God.*

*Being united to Christ's humanity,  
we know ourselves when we rest in him.  
Come, Lord Jesus: We are open to your Spirit.  
We await your full presence.  
Our world finds rest in you alone.*

## Doxology

L Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen. – Revelation 7:12, NRSV



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him all crea-tures here be - low; O



Praise Him! O Praise Him! Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly



Ghost. O Praise Him! O Praise Him! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

## Prayer of Dedication

A *Lord, we thank for Your faithfulness.  
Thank you that we can always trust in You.  
You are an abundant God and out of your great kindness  
you have given us so much.*

*We give you this offering today, and with it we also give ourselves.  
Use this congregation, for your kingdom and your glory.  
Extend and multiply its reach and influence we pray.  
And may we be a great blessing to many. Amen.*

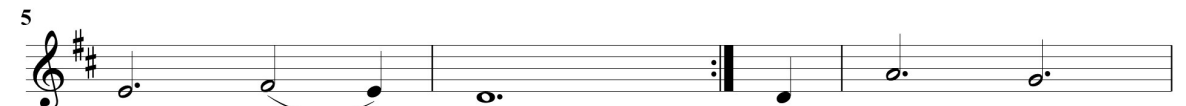
A *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen*

## Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Steve Thorngate



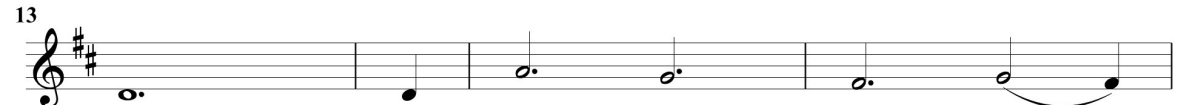
Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord



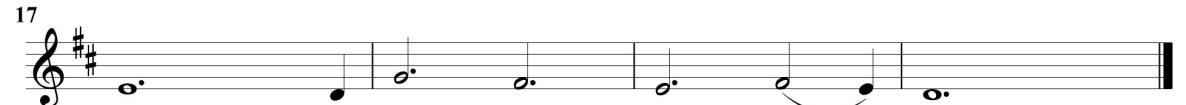
Je - sus, come. For what we've  
If death is



left un - done, for fear that leaves us  
o - ver - come and new life is be-



numb, for the all world we can't out-  
gun, the world will be un-



- run that we need res - cue from.  
- done. - Come, Lord Je - sus, come.

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## CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L The psalmist testifies: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me. In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

—based on Psalm 66:16, 18-20, NRSV

A *Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.*

### Silent and Personal Confession

#### WORDS OF RENEWAL

L As we hear the ancient prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, we long for the day when death will be swallowed up and every tear will be wiped away. As we wait expectantly for Christ's promised return, live in the assurance of God's gracious forgiveness.

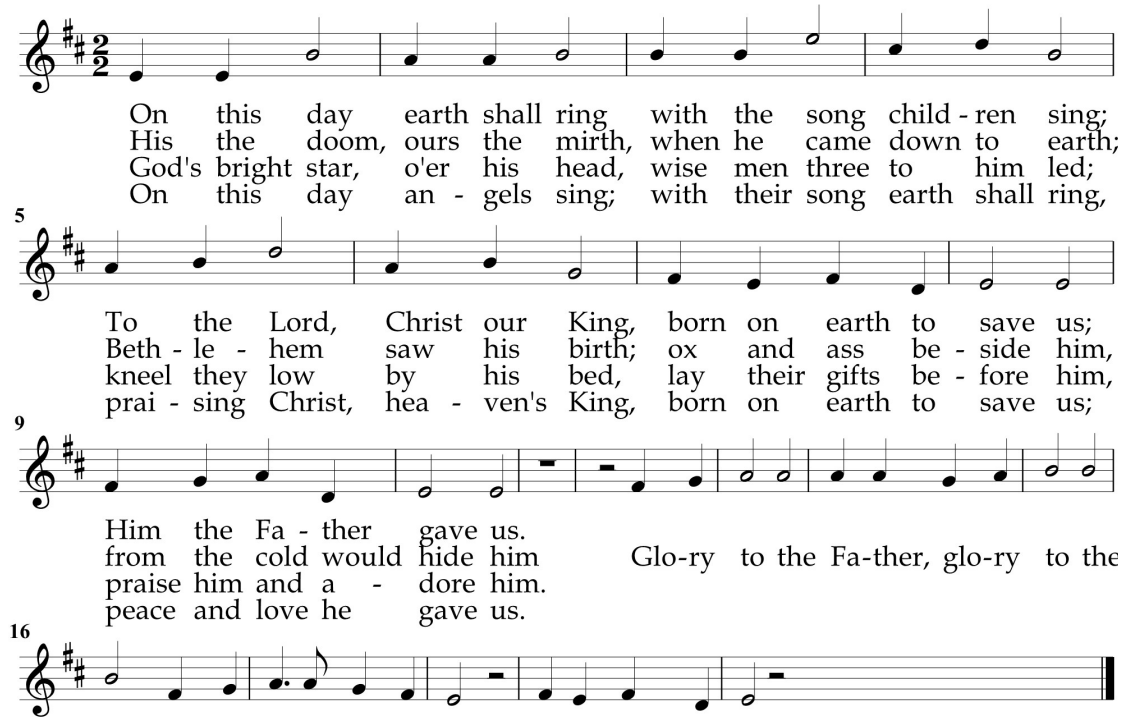
A *Thanks be to God!*

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## On This Day

Personent Hodie

Piae Cantiones, 1582



On this day earth shall ring with the song child - ren sing;  
His the doom, ours the mirth, when he came down to earth;  
God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led;  
On this day an - gels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
5 To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;  
Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be - side him,  
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be - fore him,  
9 prai - sing Christ, hea - ven's King, born on earth to save us;  
Him the Fa - ther gave us.  
from the cold would hide him Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, glo-ry to the  
praise him and a - dore him.  
16 peace and love he gave us.

Son, Glo-ry to the Ho-ly Ghost, to the three in one.