
A Glance at the Week

Monday

7:00 am Men's Discussion (*Zoom*)

6:30 pm Small Group

Church Contact Information

Office Phone: 651-698-3889

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

Office Admin (secretary@randolphheights.org)

Session (session@randolphheights.org)

For Pastoral Communication, please call Pastor Ken @ 651-592-3320

Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

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 19, 2021

9:30am Discussion

10:30am Worship

www.randolphheights.org

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.

Scripture from Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come,
he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.
No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
A Thanks be to God!

Reflections

We live in a broken world and we want hope. And we go to movies – we read stories – because we get to see broken people become whole. And that’s the message that Jesus gives us.

~ *Matthew Luhn, Pixar Story Editor and Artist*

To be baptized is to recover the humanity that God first intended. What did God intend? He intended that human beings should grow into such love for him and such confidence in him that they could rightly be called God’s sons and daughters. Human

~ *Rowan Williams, 1950- , Archbishop Canterbury from 02-12*

I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I’m not happy. I don’t feel the way I’m supposed to feel... Rats. Nobody sent me a Christmas card today. I almost wish there weren’t a holiday season. I know nobody likes me. Why do we have to have a holiday season to emphasize it?

~ *A Charlie Brown Christmas, 1965*

We are all strangers in a strange land, longing for home, but not quite knowing what or where home is. We glimpse it sometimes in our dreams, or as we turn a corner, and suddenly there is a strange, sweet familiarity that vanishes almost as soon as it comes.

~ *Madeleine L'Engle, 1918-2007, Author*

PRELUDE

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

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Steve Thorngate

Musical notation for the prelude. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Come, Lord Jesus, come.' The first staff ends with a repeat sign, and the second staff begins with a '4' indicating a four-measure rest before the melody resumes.

Call to Worship *(Fr. Psalm 146)*

- L Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. When they breathe their last, they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them. But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.
- A *He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever.*
- L He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The Lord frees the prisoners. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down.
- A *The Lord loves the godly. The Lord protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.*
- L The Lord will reign forever.
- A *He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations.*

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]

Angels We Have Heard on High

Trad. Carol

James Chadwick



An - gels we have heard on high Sweet-ly sing-ing
Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains And the moun-tains in re - ply
strains pro - long? What the glad-some ti - dings be
an - gels sing, Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee,



E - cho - ing their joy - ous strains Glo-
Which in - spire your heaven-ly song?
Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



- o - o - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o De - o

In the Bleak Mid Winter

Gustav Holst

Christina Rossetti



- In the bleak mid-win - ter, fros - ty wind made moan,
Our God, hea-ven can't hold him, nor - earth sus - tain;
- An - gels and arch-an - gels may have gath - ered there,
- What - can I give him, poor - as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign.
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thro - nged the air;
If I were a shep- herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fa - llen, snow on snow-, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid win - ter a sta - ble place su - fficed the
but his mo - ther on - -ly - , in her mai - den bliss, the
if I were a Wise - Man - , I would do my part; yet



in the bleak mid-win - ter, long a - go.
Lord - God Al - might-y, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with - a kiss.
what - can I give him: give - my heart.

Advent Candle Lighting

L Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath – the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. In the Book of Deuteronomy, we find these words:

A *“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” – Deuteronomy 10:17-19a*

L From the Gospel of John we hear:

A *“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” – John 13:34-35*

L Let us pray together:

A *Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ’s footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. 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.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Isaiah 35:1-10 (found on Page 15)

Series Advent 2021

Sermon Home From Exile

Responding to God’s Word

L. Lord God, you choose the very least and raise them up to greatness

A. *For nothing is impossible with God*

L. You take the weak, the poor and blind and raise them out of darkness

A. *For nothing is impossible with God*

L. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

A. *His love endures forever.*

L. Give thanks to the God of gods.

A. *His love endures forever.*

L. Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

A. *His love endures forever.*

L. Teach us obedience, Lord in every part of our lives. Give us ears to hear your word, hands to do your work, feet to walk your path, A heart for all your people, a mouth to shout your praise, a childlike faith with Humility, and Confidence That says:

A. *To the possible, to the impossible, I am the Lord's servant, May it be to me as you have said. Amen*

Doxology

L Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen. – Psalm 72:18-19, NRSV

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

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*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

John Francis Wade



O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; O
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py morn-ing;
6
come ye, O come ye, to Beth-le-hem. Come and be-hold Him
sing, all ye citi-zens of heav'n a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all
12
Je-sus, to Thee be all glo-ry giv'n; Word of the Fa-ther,
born the King of an-gels;
glo-ry in the high-est; O come, let us a-dore Him, O
now in flesh ap-pear-ing.
16
come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ the Lord.

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L It is easy for us to lose sight of what the birth of Jesus means to this dark and dying world. Let us be reminded that Christ came to free us from our sin and reunite us with our Creator. Let's pray:

A *God of love,
You came in weakness, as a child. All season long we want more stuff, more for us, but you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of our Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels.*

When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father.

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and believing in Your Song, let your grace fill us, O God. Renew our hopes in Christ, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, God with us.

In His name we pray, Amen.

Silent and Personal Confession

WORDS OF RENEWAL

L May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A *Thanks be to God!*

All Sing: God is With Us

The glory of God has come to the earth,
The glory of God in our Savior's birth,
Join with the angels to sing and proclaim
Glory to His name

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us, now

Eternity's likeness has come into time,
A light in the darkness, now hope is alive
Down from the heavens on this holy night,
Our God in a manger, our God as a child (*chorus*)

(Bridge)

Oh, let us bring him more than our silver and gold. (*chorus*)