
A Glance at the Week

Monday

6:30 pm Small Group

Wednesday

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

Church Contact Information

Office Phone: 651-698-3889

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

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

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Looking Ahead

Gospel of John

04/02/23 - Eternal Life	17:1-5
04/09/23 - Easter Sunday	20:10-29
04/16/23 - John Meeting Jesus	20:1-10
04/23/23 - Mary Meeting Jesus	20:10-18
04/30/23 - Thomas Meeting Jesus	20:24-31
05/07/23 - Eating With Jesus	21:1-14
05/14/23 - Peter's Story	21:4-17
05/21/23 - Jesus Sends them Out	20:19-22
05/28/23 - Pentecost Sunday	



Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN
55105

April 30, 2023

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 Reading: John 20:24-31

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

BENEDICTION

L God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
~ *from Micah 6:8, NIV*

**Life in the Body*

Send Out

Go in peace as the reaffirmed church of Jesus Christ. Go to be his body in a broken world. May the grace of God and the love of Christ go with you. Amen.

A Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make you love me more, and nothing I have done that makes you love me less. Your presence and approval are all I need for everlasting joy. As you have been to me, so I will be to others. As I pray, I'll measure your compassion by the cross and your power by the resurrection. Amen.

Reflections

'My master,' he says, 'and my God!' He is the first person in this book to look at Jesus of Nazareth and address the word 'God' directly to him. Yet this is what John has been working round to from the beginning. 'In the beginning was the **Word** ... and the Word was God.' 'Nobody has ever seen God. The only-begotten God, who is intimately close to the father – he has brought him to light.' What does that mean? What does it look like when it's actually happening? Well, says John, it looks like this ... ~ *N.T. Wright, 1948- , N.T. Scholar, Pauline Theology*

Those who believe they believe in God but without passion in the heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God, and not in God himself.

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

It is the way of God: he humbles that he may exalt, he kills that he might make alive, he confounds that he might glorify.

~ *Martin Luther, The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*

If Jesus is the model of perfect faith, and his twin is Thomas, who models doubt, then what we understand is that faith and doubt are not antitheses – they're twins.

~ *Mark Schaefer, American University Chaplain, Author*

The only way to doubt Christianity rightly and fairly is to discern the alternate belief under each of your doubts and then ask yourself what reasons you have for believing it. How do you know your belief is true? It is inconsistent to require more justification for Christian belief than you do for your own, but that is frequently what happens. In fairness, you must doubt your doubts. My thesis is that if you come to recognize the beliefs on which your doubts about Christianity are based, and if you seek as much proof for those beliefs as you seek from Christians for theirs – you will discover that your doubts are not as solid as they first appeared. ~ *Tim Keller, Pastor / Author*

PRELUDE

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

All Sing: Blessed Be the Lord Our God

Blessed be the Lord, our God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds,
who alone does wondrous deeds.

Blessed be his glorious Name, His glorious Name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with his glory, alleluia!

(Blessed be his glorious name. – 1st time through)

(Amen, amen, Amen, amen! - 2nd time through)

Call to Worship *(from Psalm 116)*

L I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.

A *Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!*

L How kind the Lord is! How good he is! So merciful, this God of ours!
What can I offer the Lord for all he has done for me?

A *I will lift up the cup of salvation and praise the Lord's name for saving me. I will keep my promises to the Lord in the presence of all his people.*

L O Lord, I am your servant; yes, I am your servant, born into your house
hold; you have freed me from my chains. I will offer you a sacrifice of
thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

A *I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people – in the house
of the Lord in the heart of Jerusalem.*

Pastoral Prayer

L O Savior God, look upon your church in its struggles. Have mercy on its
weaknesses, give strength and courage to love the truth...

Look also upon the ministry of this congregation. Increase its courage,
strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness to those in our sphere of
influence and beyond, even to the ends of the earth. Have courage to join
in Jesus' mission build and strengthen one-another.

Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your
children here present. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your
Son, our only Savior.

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 Gracious God, accept all these prayers offered in Jesus' name, and give us
now the strength to wait patiently for your answer, and to live faithfully
in response to your call. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Invitation to the Table

L Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

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 *With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us – even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.*

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

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

L O God of all creation, you alone are God.
And you alone can satisfy our longing
for a support that earth cannot give
and that heaven will not take away.

Help us,
in recognition of our common dependence on you,
to acknowledge our need of one another.
Let the oneness of our worship
make us one in love and service. 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*

Crown Him with Many Crowns

George Elvey

Matthew Bridges



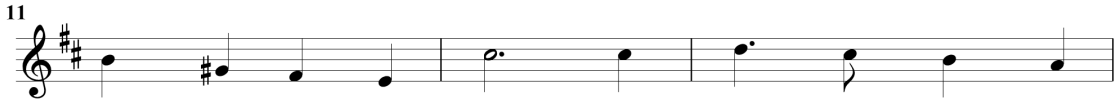
Crown Him with man - y crowns, The lamb u - pon His
Crown Him the Lord of love! Be - hold His hands and
Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the
Crown Him the Son of God Be - fore the worlds be -



throne; Hark! How the heav'n - ly an - them Drowns all
side, Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In
grave, And rose vic - tor - ious in the strife For
- gan, And ye who tread where He hath trod Crown



mu - sic but its own! A - wake, my soul, and sing Of
beaut - y glo - ri - fied: No an - gel in the sky Can
those He came to save; His glo - ries now we sing Who
Him the Son of Man. To Thee be end - less praise, For



Him who died for thee, And hail Him as thy
ful - ly bear that sight, But down - ward bends his
died and rose on high, Who died, e - ter - nal
Thou hast died for me; Thy praise and glo - ry



match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
life to bring, And lives that death may die.
shall not fail, Through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

Wm. Moore

Isaac Watts



A - las! and did my Sa - vior bleed, and did my Sov'-reign
Well might the sun in dark - ness hide, and shut its glo - ries



die! Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for
in, when God, the might - y ma - ker, died for



sin - ners such as I? Was it for crimes that I have
his own crea - ture's sin. Thus might I hide my blush - ing
But drops of tears can ne'er re -



done, he groaned u - pon the tree? A - ma - zing pi - ty!
face while his dear cross ap - pears; dis - solve my heart in
- pay the debt of love I owe. Here, Lord, I give my -



Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!
thank - ful - ness, and melt mine eyes to tears.
- self a - way; 'tis all that I can do.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture John 20:24-31 (*found on Page 15*)

Series Gospel of John

Sermon Thomas Meeting Jesus

Profession of Faith

A *You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.
You existed before time and created everything that exists.
You are our God and we submit our loyalty to You.*

*We acknowledge that You are the only living God
and that there are no other gods.*

*Father, You are compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
You shower compassion on all Your creation.*

*Revering You is pure, lasting forever.
Father, Your Word is more desirable than gold,
yes, even the finest gold.
Your Word is sweeter than honey
dripping from the honeycomb.
Father, You are great
and greatly to be praised and we bless You today.*

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 *Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.*

– Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18, NRSV

Silent and Personal Confession

Calmer of My Troubled Heart

Charles Wesley

Mathew Smith

Calm-er of my troub-led heart Bid my un - be-lief de - part
Com - fort me when - e'er I mourn With the hope of Thy re - turn

5
Speak and all my sor-rows cease Speak and all my soul is peace Hal-le-
And till I Thy glo-ries see Help - me be - lieve in Thee

9
- lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal - le-lu - jah

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics. The second staff, starting with a measure rest and a '5', contains the second line of lyrics. The third staff, starting with a measure rest and a '9', contains the third line of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

Renewal

L Hear the good news!

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; new life has begun. Know that in Jesus, God forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life. –based on Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

A *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.*

Dedication

A *God of hope,
you gave your Son to free a lost world.
You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage.
You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears.
You promise us a future with you.
In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes.
May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see
the goodness of knowing you.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.*

Preparation

L Lord God, help us turn our hearts to you and hear what you will speak, for you speak peace to your people through Christ, our Lord. Amen.