
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.

Office Admin (secretary@randolphheights.org)

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

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Looking Ahead

Summer in Psalms

07/02/23 - Finding Certainty	Psalm 14
07/09/23 - Anxiety	Psalm 27
07/16/23 - Beauty of God	Psalm 27
07/23/23 - Confession	Psalm 32
07/30/23 - Thirst for God	Psalms 42/43
08/06/23 - In Search of ...	Psalm 63
08/13/23 - Worship	Psalm 95
08/20/23 - God's Love	Psalm 107
08/27/23 - (Guest)	Psalm
09/03/23 - Rejoicing and Weeping	Psalm 126

Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN
55105

July 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: Psalm 42/43

For the director of music. A maskil of the Sons of Korah.

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? ³My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" ⁴These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

⁶My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon – from Mount Mizar. ⁷Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

⁸By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life. ⁹I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" ¹⁰My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

¹¹Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Vindicate me, my God, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked. ²You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy? ³Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. ⁴Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

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

BENEDICTION

*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

L The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Peace be to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

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

What do people mean when they say, 'I am not afraid of God because I know He is good'? Have they never even been to a dentist? ~ *C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed*

Not that I am (I think) in much danger of ceasing to believe in God. The real danger is of coming to believe such dreadful things about him. The conclusion I dread is not 'So there's no God after all,' but 'So this is what God's really like. Deceive yourself no longer.'
~ *C. S. Lewis, 1898-1963*

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us
~ *A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy*

Our self help culture is preoccupied with 'self-talk', with your inner-monologue. Does what you say cheer you up or tear you down? Are you consciously self-affirming or obsessively self-critical?...[God's Word] gets you out of the monologue business entirely. It gets you about the business of a living dialogue with the person whose opinion finally matters.

~ *David Powlison, Pastoral theologian and author with CCEF*

I find a lot of dishonesty in Christian art. And I think it's a shame because [the psalmists] are people who are vulnerable to God in a good way...porous, open. I would love if... people writing these [Christian] songs would write a song about their bad marriage... Why I'm suspicious of Christians is because of this lack of realism.

~ *Bono (1960-present), lead singer of U2*

I have never experienced stomach doubt, but I think Jesus did. When he cried out, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!' I don't think he was raising a theological issue... I think he had looked into the abyss itself and found there a darkness that spiritually, viscerally, totally engulfed him. I think God allows that kind of darkness to happen only to God's saints.

~ *Frederick Buechner, Wishful Thinking*

PRELUDE

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

Opening

- L O God, by your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness.
A *Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ, that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.*

All Sing: Not to Us, O Lord

Not to us, O Lord, Not to us, O Lord
But to Thy name give glory
To Thy name give praise

We were weak, You made us strong
You gave us hope when hope was gone
So, when we lift our song of praise
With single voice and mind,
Our thankful hearts will say... *(Refrain)*

Call to Worship

- L "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
A *What did God do to help us?*
- L God chose the people of Israel to make a new beginning. They received God's covenant and prepared the way for Jesus to come as our Savior.
A *Let us worship the God of the covenant, the God of heaven and earth.*

Pastoral Prayer

- L Almighty God, Father of mercies, we give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

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 Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us, in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. 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

Adoration

L God of power and wonder,
we are awestruck by the glory of your presence.
We rejoice at what we can see;
we marvel at what we cannot see.
You dazzle us with your brightness;
you overshadow us as with a great cloud.
Loving, protecting, challenging, nurturing,
you strengthen and transform us.
May we love and serve you in all that we are and do.
Glory be to you.

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*

All Sing: Heal Us, Emmanuel

(Refrain) Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are, we long to feel Thy touch
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly, O Savior hear our cry

Our faith is feeble, we confess,
We faintly trust Thy word
But will You pity us the less?
Be that far from You Lord! (Refrain)

Remember him who once applied,
With trembling for relief
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried,
"O help my unbelief!" (Refrain)

She, too, who touched you in the press,
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, Daughter, go in peace,
Thy faith has made thee whole (Refrain)

Like her, with hopes and fears we come,
To touch You if we may
O send us not despairing home,
Send none unhealed away (Refrain)

Words: Wm Cowper
Tune: Kevin Twit

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five systems of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The first system starts with a 3/4 time signature, followed by a 4/4 time signature, and then returns to 3/4. The second system starts with a 4/4 time signature. The third system starts with a 3/4 time signature. The fourth system starts with a 4/4 time signature, followed by a 3/4 time signature, and then returns to 4/4. The fifth system starts with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "My hope is built on / When dark-ness veils His / His oath His cov-en- / When He shall come with / no-thing less Than Je-sus' blood and right-eous-ness; I / love-ly face, I rest on His un-chang-ing grace; In / -ant, His blood Sup-port me in the 'whel-ming flood: When / trum-pet sound, O may I then in him be found. Dressed / dare not trust the sweet-est frame, But whol-ly lean on / ev-ery high and storm-y gale My an-chor holds with- / all a-round my soul gives way, He then is all my / in His right-eous-ness a-lone, Fault-less we stand be- / Je-sus' name. in the veil. On Christ the so-lid rock I stand; All / hope and stay. fore His throne. / o-ther ground is sink-ing sand. All o-ther ground is sink-ing sand."

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Psalm 42/43 (*found on Page 15*)
Series Summer in the Psalms
Sermon Longing

Profession of Faith

A *Loving God, we gather each week to meet you.
We come to listen to you, to seek you, and to worship you.
You are the beginning of all things,
the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.
In you we become; in you we live.
Loving God, you are here and everywhere,
around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.
In you we hope; in you we live.
You are the source of serenity,
giving peace that is beyond our understanding.
In you we are still; in you we live.
Loving God, we live in you; we worship you.
Loving God, you live in us; we worship you. Amen.*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L *A scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Mt 8:19-20*

A *Lord God,
It is easy to declare our willingness to go where you command and to follow where you lead, yet we confess, we are weak and oftentimes, fickle. We are easily distracted from your ways, and are quick to follow our own hearts instead. As we plan our futures, we think more of our safety and comfort, rather than laying down our lives for the sake of your kingdom. We are slow to consider the calling upon our lives.*

Jesus,

Thank-you that you did not guard your own interests, but chose to leave the comfort and richness of heaven for our sake. You did not build a safe and comfortable home for yourself, rather, made yourself vulnerable to those you came to save. Your obedient self-sacrifice enables us to stand before the Father, forgiven of our self-centeredness and clothed in your obedience.

Holy Spirit,

Teach us what it means to pick up our cross daily and follow you. Help us to set aside our desires, as we remember the ultimate cost you paid, for laying aside your life. Enlarge our selfish hearts and fill them with love for you and our neighbor. Amen.

Silent and Personal Confession

Lamb of God (Grant us Your Peace)

Welcome Wagon

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of three staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics, starting at measure 6. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of lyrics, starting at measure 11. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Grant us your peace, grant us your peace, Grant us your peace, grant us your peace." The piece ends with a double bar line.

Renewal

L Let us give thanks to God, because of the grace given to us in Jesus Christ! And in every way, may we be enriched in him, in our speech and knowledge, not lacking in any gift. Let us live with anticipation, for the revealing of Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A *Thanks be to God!* – Romans 8:15-17, NRSV

Doxology

L Freely you have received, freely give. – Matthew 10:8, NIV

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 *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.*

Preparation

L Lord God, may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. – based on Psalm 119:105, NRSV