
A Glance at the Week

Monday

6:30 pm Small Group

Tuesday

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

Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

Looking Ahead

Hard Sayings of Jesus

Upcoming Sermons

Love Your Enemies	Luke 6:20-36
Unabashed Prayer	Luke 11:5-13
Lead us not into Temptation	Luke 11:2-4
Judge Not	Matthew 7:1-6
Falling Towers	Luke 13:1-9
Sin Against the Holy Spirit	Matthew 12:30-32
How to Hate Your Parents	Luke 14:25-27
I Came to Set the Earth on Fire	Luke 12:49-53



Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN
55105

November 05, 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: Luke 13:1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

"'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

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 Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of 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

Poor God, how often He is blamed for all the suffering in the world. It's like praising Satan for allowing all the good that happens.

~ E.A. Bucchianeri, Author, Brushstrokes of a Gadfly

It is easy for us to criticize the prejudices of our grandfathers, from which our fathers freed themselves. It is more difficult to distance ourselves from our own beliefs so that we can dispassionately search for prejudices among them.

~ Peter Singer, 1946- , Australian Philosopher, Practical Ethics

A lot of you cared, just not enough. *~ Jay Asher, 1975- , writer/novelist*

I can't go on, I'll go on. *~ Samuel Beckett, 1906-1989, Novelist/dramatist*

"The fact is that we have no way of knowing if the person who we think we are is at the core of our being. Are you a decent girl with the potential to someday become an evil monster, or are you an evil monster that thinks it's a decent girl?"

"Wouldn't I know which one I was?" "Good God, no. The lies we tell other people are nothing to the lies we tell ourselves."

~ Derek Landy, 1974- , Author/screenwriter

There's nothing wrong with conceptualization per se; but when we take our opinions about any event to be some kind of absolute truth and fail to see that they are opinions, then we suffer.

~ Charlotte Joko Beck, 1917-2011, Teacher/Author

A God who could pardon without justice might one of these days condemn without reason. *~ C.H. Spurgeon, 1834-1892, famed London preacher*

PRELUDE

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

Opening

L This is the day that you have made, Lord.

A *Help us to rejoice in it and be glad!*

L Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people: to come to you in these moments, to confess our sins, to receive forgiveness and give it, to pray and sing and listen, to renew our fainting spirits, to rest in all your promises.

A *Open our eyes to see you, Lord. Open our ears to hear your Word. Visit us through your Holy Spirit, and help us to celebrate our faith. Amen.*

All Sing: You are With Me (Ps 139)

How precious are Your thoughts, O God.

How vast is the sum of them.

I would spend days and nights counting them

and never reach the end; And when I awake - You are with me. (repeat)

So search me; know my heart.

Test me; know my thoughts.

Lead me in your ways.

Search me, test me, lead me... In Your ways.

Words & Music by: The Crossing Music

Pastoral Prayer

L We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war; For we know that You have made the world in a way That man must find his own path to peace Within himself and with his neighbor. We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation; For you have already given us the resources With which to feed the entire world If we would only use them wisely. We cannot merely pray to You, O God, To root out prejudice, For You have already given us eyes With which to see the good in all men If we would only use them rightly. We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair, For You have already given us the power To clear away slums and to give hope If we would only use our power justly. We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease, For you have already given us great minds with which To search out cures and healing, If we would only use them constructively. Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, For strength, determination, and willpower, To do instead of just to pray, To become instead of merely to wish. ~ *Prayer by Jack Riemer*

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 May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. *from Psalm 19:14*

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

Invitation to the Table

- L Professing & baptized members of a church in which Jesus Christ is professed as Lord and Savior: the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him, are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.
- 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.*
- L Let us give thanks together:

Prayer of Thanks *(from a fourth-century liturgy from the city of Alexandria.)*

- A *It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks, for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of all life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day, and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we glorify your name and lift our voices in joyful praise:*

All Sing: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,
Heaven and Earth are filled with Your Glory. (2x)
Hosanna! Hosanna! In the highest! (2x)*

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

Call to Worship *(from Ps 135)*

- L Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- A *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Adoration

- L Loving God, we have gathered to meet you. We have come to listen to you, to seek you, 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.

May we glorify you in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

- 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*

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Fredrick Wm. Faber



There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the
For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of the



sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-
mind, and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der - ful-ly



- ty. There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the
kind. If our love were but more sim - ple, we should rest up - on God's



good. There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his
word, and our lives would be ill - u - mined by the pre - sence of our



blood. There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his blood.
Lord. and our lives would be ill - u - mined by the pre - sence of our Lord.

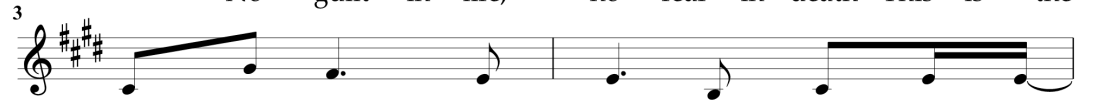
In Christ Alone

Stuart Townend

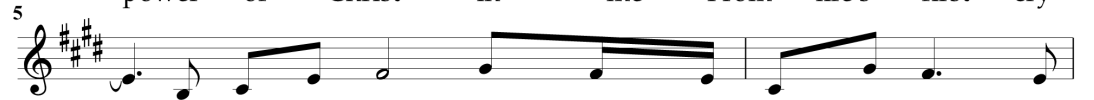
Keith Getty



In Christ a - lone, my hope is found He is my
In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh Full - ness of
There in the ground His bod - y lay Light of the
No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the



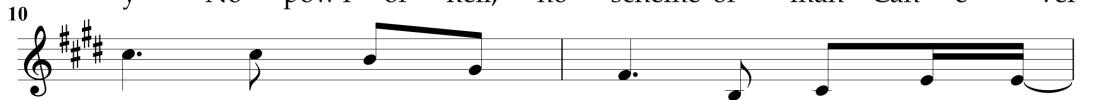
light, my strength, my song This Cor - ner - stone,
God in help - less babe This gift of love
world by dark - ness slain Then burst - ing forth
power of Christ in me From life's first cry



this so - lid ground Firm through the fier - cest drought and
and right - eous - ness Scorned by the ones He came to
in glor - ious Day Up from the grave He rose a -
to fi - nal breath Je - sus com - mands my des - tin -



storm What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are
save 'Til on that cross as Je - sus died The wrath of
- gain And as He stands in vic - tor - y Sin's curse has
- y No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can e - ver



stilled, when stri - vings cease My Com - fort - er,
God was sat - is - fied For ev - 'ry sin
lost its grip on me For I am His
pluck me from His hand Till He re - turns



my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand
on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live
and He is mine Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ
or calls me home Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

- L Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life! Help us now to hear and obey what you say to us today. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen. – *based on John 6:68*

Scripture Luke 13:1-9 (*found on Page 15*)

Series Hard Sayings of Jesus

Sermon Falling Towers

Profession of Faith

- A *As we are to walk humbly with our God in lives of gratitude, let us respond to his Word: God commands us to serve him alone as God, to serve him according to his Word, to speak of him only with deep respect and love, to attend faithfully the assembly of God's people on the day of rest, and every day to let the Lord work in us through his Spirit; to respect and cooperate with all God-given authority, to nurture human life as God's precious gift, to live life's of true joy, to use the resources of this earth as stewards of God's creation, to use the gift of speech for promoting the truth in love, and to exercise purity of heart in all of life. May the Spirit of God guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen!*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L Surely you desire truth in the inner parts, you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take the Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.

- A *Eternal God, you do not change.
You have revealed yourself to us in your Word.
You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth.
But we confess that we often worship
not your true self but who we wish you to be.
We too often ask you to bless what we do
rather than seeking to do what you bless.
Forgive us for seeking concessions
when we should be seeking guidance.
Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want
instead of shaping us into what you want.
Help us to meet you here, that we might bow
before your unspeakable majesty
and so live for you now and ever, in Christ. Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

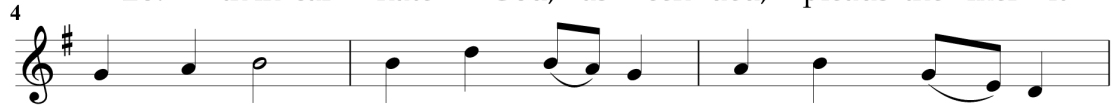
Come, Ye Weary

Trad Melody

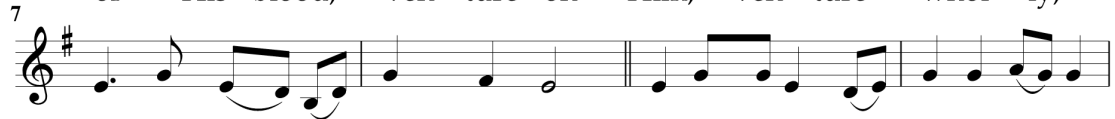
Joseph Hart



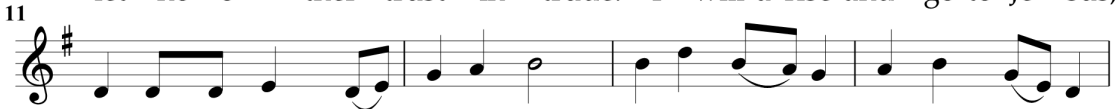
Come, ye wear-y, hea - vy la - den, lost and ru - ined
Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel-come, God's free boun-ty
Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness
Lo! th'in-car - nate God, as - cen-ded, pleads the mer - it



by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
glor - i - fy; true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness He re - quir - eth
of His blood; ven - ture on Him, ven - ture whol - ly;



you will ne - ver come at all.
ev - 'ry grace that brings you nigh. I will a-rise and go to Je - sus,
is to feel your need of Him.
let no o - ther trust in - trude. I will a-rise and go to Je - sus,



He will em-brace me in His arms; In the arms of my dear Sav-ior,
He will em-brace me in His arms; In the arms of my dear Sav-ior,



○ there are ten thou-sand charms.
○ there are ten thou-sand charms.

Renewal

- L The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed
down. – *Psalm 145:13-14, NRSV*
- A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

- L Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most
High. – *Psalm 50:14, 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.*

Dedication

- A *Lord, we thank you 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.*