
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)

Session (session@randolphheights.org)

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 12, 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: Matthew 12:30-32

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. 31 And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

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

Of course God will forgive me; that's His job.

~ Heinrich Heine, 1797-1856, German literary critic, writer

Those who think they are healthy but have a hidden moral cancer are incurable; the sick who want to be healed have a chance. All denial of guilt keeps people out of the area of love and, by inducing self-righteousness, prevents a cure. The two facts of healing in the physical order are these: A physician cannot heal us unless we put ourselves into his hands, and we will not put ourselves into his hands unless we know that we are sick.

~ Fulton J. Sheen, 1895-1979, American Catholic archbishop

That we are capable, only of being what we are, remains our unforgivable sin.

~ Gene Wolfe, 1931-2019, Am. Author, The Claw of the Conciliator

Christian tradition thinks of genuine repentance not as a human possibility but as a gift of God. It is not just that we do not like being wrong, but that almost invariably the others are not completely right either. As Carl Gustav Jung observed after World War II, most confessions come as a mixture of repentance, self-defense, and even some lust for revenge. We admit wrongdoing, justify ourselves, and attack, all in one breath.

~ Miroslav Volf, 1956- , Theologian / Author

I imagine that one of the reasons people cling to their hate so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, that they will be forced to deal with pain.

~ James Baldwin, 1924-1987, Author, Notes of a Native Son

Forgiveness is an outrage against straight-line dues-paying morality.

~ Lewis Smedes, 1921-2002, Author, Forgive and Forget

Most ignorance is vincible ignorance. We don't know because we don't want to know. It is our will that decides how and upon what subjects we shall use our intelligence.... No philosophy is completely disinterested.

~ Aldous Huxley, 1894-1963, English writer, Philosopher

PRELUDE

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

Opening

L As we prepare for worship, we pray that you will quiet our hearts,
that we may hear your voice in your Word.

A We pray that you will stir our hearts, that we may more faithfully follow Jesus,
and that you will be glorified by the praise and prayers we offer you.

KINGSFOLD (Tune)

Isaac Watts



Un - der the sha-dow of your throne your saints have dwelt se-
Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived its
A thou-sand age-s in your sight are like an ev' - ning



- cure; suf - fi-cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is
frame, from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end-less years the
gone, short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ri - sing



sure. O God, our help in a-ges past, our hope for years to come, Will
same. O God, our help in a-ges past, our hope for years to come, Will
sun. O God, our help in a-ges past, our hope for years to come, Will



be our guard while troub-les last, and our e - ter-nal home:
be our guard while troub-les last, and our e - ter-nal home:
be our guard while troub-les last, and our e - ter-nal home:

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*

All Creatures of Our God and King

Jonathan and Ryan Baird

St. Francis of Assisi



All crea - tures of our God and King
 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless
 All the re - deemed washed by His blood
 3 He shall re - turn in pow'r to reign



Lift up your voice and with us sing O praise Him! Al-le-
 And wor-ship Him in hum-ble - ness O praise Him! Al-le-
 Come and re - joice in His great love O praise Him! Al-le-
 6 Hea - ven and earth will join to say O praise Him! Al-le-



- lu - ia! Thou, burn - ing sun with gold - en beam
 - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son
 - lu - ia! Christ has de - feat - ed ev - 'ry sin
 9 - lu - jah! Then who shall fall on bend - ed knee?



Thou, sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam O praise Him! O
 And praise the Spi - rit, Three-in - One O praise Him! O
 Cast all your bur - dens now on Him O praise Him! O
 12 All crea - tures of our God and King O praise Him! O



praise Him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Begone Unbelief

Kevin Twitt

John Newton



Be - gone un - be - lief, My Sa - vior is
 Though dark be my way, Since he is my
 Why should I com - plain, Of want or dis-
 Since all that I meet will work for my



near, And for my re - lief Will sure - ly ap-
 guide, 'Tis mine to o - bey, and His to pro-
 - tress Temp - ta - tion or pain? He told me no
 good, The bit - ter is sweet, The med - i - cine



- pear: By faith let me wrest - le, with God in the
 - vide; Though cis - terns be bro - ken, And crea - tures all
 less The heirs of sal - va - tion, I know from his
 food; Though pain - ful at pre - sent, will cease be - fore



storm And help me my Sa - vior, the faith to a-
 fail, The word he has spo - ken will sure - ly pre-
 word Through much trib - u - la - tion Must fol - low their
 long, And then, O! how glo - rious, The con - quer - or's



- dorn And help me my Sa - vior, the faith to a - dorn -
 - vail. The word he has spo - ken will sure - ly pre - vail.
 Lord Through much trib - u - la - tion Must fol - low their Lord
 song! And then, O! how glo - rious, The con - quer - or's - song!

* Refrain after vs. 2 & 4 – Begone unbelief, the savior is here (3x)

Though cisterns be broken and creatures all fail;
 The word He has spoken will surely prevail (2x)

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

- L Lord God, we wish to see Jesus. By your Spirit's power, give us eyes to see his glory.

Scripture Matthew 12:30-32 (*found on Page 15*)

Series Hard Sayings of Jesus

Sermon The Problem of Forgiveness

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 God's Word assures us: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God. –based on 1 John 1:8-9, NRSV

- 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

Arise My Soul Arise

Kevin Twit

Charles Wesley



A - rise, my soul, a - rise, shake off your guil - ty fears;
He e - ver lives a - bove, for me to in - ter - cede;
Five bleed - ing wounds He bears; re - ceived on Cal - var - y;
My God is re - con - ciled; His pard - ning voice I hear;



The bleed - ing sac - ri - fice, in my be - half ap - pears;
His all re - deem - ing love, His pre - cious blood, to plead;
They pour ef - fect - ual prayers; they strong - ly plead for me;
He owns me for His child; I can no long - er fear



Be - fore the throne my Sure - ty stands, Be - fore the throne
His blood a - toned for ev - ry race, His blood a - toned
"For - give him, O for - give," they cry, "For - give him, O
With con - fi - dence I now draw nigh, With con - fi - dence



my Sure - ty stands, My name is writ - ten on His hands.
for ev - ry race, And sprin - kles now the throne of grace.
for - give," they cry, "Nor let that ran - somed sin - ner die!"
I now draw nigh, And "Fa - ther, Ab - ba, Fa - ther," cry.



A - rise, a - rise, a - rise A - rise, my soul, a - rise.



Shake off your guil - ty fears and rise

Renewal

L This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology (from Psalm 24:1, NRSV)

L The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

Gloria Patri

Karl Digerness, 2009



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to the Son,



Glo - ry be to the Spi - rit, Three in One. As it was in the be - gin - ing it



will be for - ev - er A - men, A - men, A - men.

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.*