
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

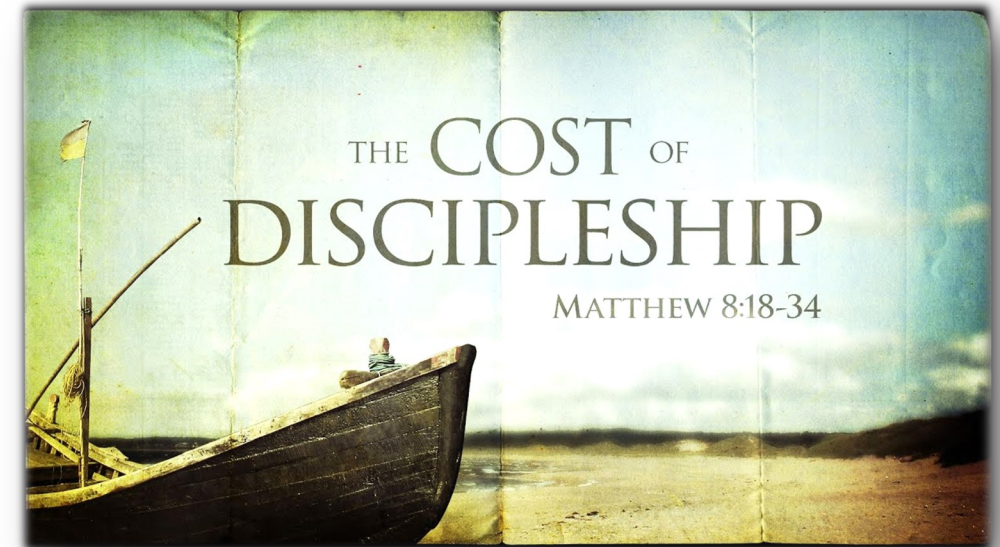
Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

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 19, 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 14:25-27

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even their own life – such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

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

Reading CS Lewis Excerpt, 'Counting the Cost'

So many people come to church with a genuine desire to hear what we have to say, yet they are always going back home with the uncomfortable feeling that we are making it too difficult for them to come to Jesus.

~ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship***

The believer's cross is no longer any and every kind of suffering, sickness, or tension, the bearing of which is demanded. The believer's cross must be, like his Lord's, the price of his social nonconformity. It is not, like sickness or catastrophe, an inexplicable, unpredictable suffering; it is the end of the path freely chosen after counting the cost. It is not, like Luther's or Thomas Muntzer's or Zinzendorf's or Kierkegaard's cross, an inward wrestling of the sensitive soul with self and sin; it is the social reality of representing in an unwilling world the Order to come.

~ **John Howard, 1939- , former Australian Politician**

I think too often people, even Christians, really short-change what salvation really is about. We picture it as really nothing more than us walking on streets of gold in white robes, and always smiling...but still being our puny little selves, just a bit cleaner. Needless to say, I don't think we really grasp what God is up to.

~ **Joel Edmund Anderson, from blogpost, Nov 14, 2015, counting the cost**

We are not sent into this world mainly to enjoy the loveliness therein, nor to sit us down in passive ease; no, we were sent here for action. The soul that seeks to do the will of God with a pure heart, fervently, does not yield to the lethargy of ease.

~ **Dorothea Dix, 1802-1887, Nurse, Advocate for Mentally Ill**

Let us think often that our only business in this life is to please God. Perhaps all besides is but folly and vanity.

~ **Brother Lawrence, 1614-1691, lay brother in a Carmelite monastery in Paris**

The thing at bottom is this, that men have low thoughts of God, and high thoughts of themselves; and therefore it is that they look upon God as having so little right, and they so much. ~ **Jonathan Edwards, 1703-1758, New England pastor and theologian**

PRELUDE

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

Opening

- L O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- A *He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.*

– Psalm 105:1-3, 7-8, NRSV

All Sing: Blessed be Your Name

Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name

Bridge: Every blessing You pour out, I'll Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord Still I will say

Refrain 2: Blessed be the name of the Lord – Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord – Blessed be Your glorious name!

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Bridge: You give and take away (2x) My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be Your name *(Bridge)*

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 119)*

- L Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.
A *Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek God with their whole heart.*
- L Happy are we, when we do no wrong and walk in God's ways.
A *O that our ways may be steadfast in keeping your commandments, O Lord. Let us worship God!*

Adoration

- L Father in heaven, we give you thanks for life and for all of the experiences that life brings us. We give you thanks for joy, hope, peace, and answered prayers, but we also give you thanks in our trials, sorrows, and pain. We give thanks for our land, for the beauty of the landscape, for the riches it provides for our living, for the people and cultures among us. Above all things, we give thanks for our hope in Christ, the life and freedom that will ultimately be ours. Teach us to cherish all your gifts. Teach us also to use all these resources for the good of society and for glory to you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Now may we with thankful hearts pray 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*

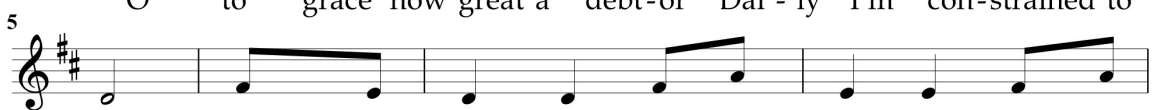
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Asahel Nettelton

Robert Robinson



Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy
Here I raise my Eb - en - ez - er; Hith - er by Thy help I'm
O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to



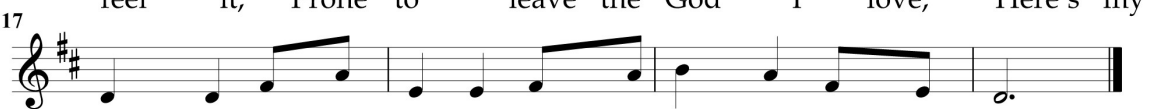
grace; Streams of mer - cy, ne - ver ceas - ing, Call for
come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, Safe - ly
be! Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some mel - o - dious
to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
wand - 'ring heart to Thee. Prone to wand - er, Lord, I



son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the
strang - er, Wand - 'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my



mount! I'm fixed u - pon it, Mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
res - cue me from dan - ger, Int - er - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

Waly Waly

Charles W. Everest



Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, If
Take up your cross, be not a - shamed! Let
Take up your cross, which gives you strength, Which
Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, Nor



you would my dis - ci - ple be; Den - y your - self, the
not dis - grace your spir - it fill! For God him - self en -
makes your trem - bling spir - it brave: 'Twill guide you to a
think till death to lay it down; For on - ly they who



world for - sake, And humb - ly fol - low af - ter me.
- dured to die Up - on a cross, on Cal - vry's hill.
bet - ter home And lead to vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
bear the cross May hope to wear the glor - ious crown.

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 Luke 14:25-27 (*found on Page 15*)

Series Hard Sayings of Jesus

Sermon Counting Costs

Profession of Faith

A *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. Let us remember his mercy, for he is gracious and compassionate. We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ, for putting your Spirit within us, for giving us the mind of Christ, for gathering us into your church.*

We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us, for calling us to a life of gratitude, for calling us to service in your kingdom. Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he satisfies the thirsty, he fills the hungry with good things, and he heals the afflicted. Let us celebrate his abundant goodness.

We thank you, gracious Father, that you provide for all our needs, for the food on our tables, for the clothes on our bodies, for the beds we sleep in, and for the dwellings that shelter us. We praise you for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs and for the beauty and pleasure that you bring into our lives.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command. and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." Let us confess our sin to God.

– based on John 14:15-17, 21, NIV

A *Generous God, you send us the Spirit of courage,
but we have been afraid. You send us the Spirit of truth,
but we cling to our illusions. You send us the Spirit of healing,
but we cannot let go of our hurts. Holy Spirit of forgiveness,
come to us again: shake our hearts,
set our souls on fire with your love:
send us out into the world rejoicing in your power.
We hold out to you all our particular burdens of guilt and sin,
and we ask for your help to live the way of Your justice and love.
Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

All Sing: Change My Heart Oh God

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You

You are the potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray

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

- L The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.
- from Psalm 24:1, NRSV

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.*