
A Glance at the Week

Monday

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

6:30 pm Small Group

Church Contact Information

Office Phone: 651-698-3889

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

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Looking Ahead

Advent Series-

A Son *Luke 1:26-38*

A Song *Luke 1:39-55*

War *Matthew 2:13-23*

& Peace *Luke 2:10-14*

Upcoming ~

Epistle of James



Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

December 03, 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 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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

- L Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. – *Romans 15:12-13, NRSV*

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

He looked round again and could hardly believe his eyes. There was the blue sky overhead, and grassy country spreading as far as he could see in every direction, and his new friends all round him laughing. 'It seems, then,' said Tirian, smiling to himself, 'that the stable seen from within and the stable seen from without are two different places.' 'Yes,' said the Lord Digory. 'Its inside is bigger than its outside.' 'Yes,' said Queen Lucy. 'In our world too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world.' ~ *C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle*

He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infant's bands. ~ *Cyril of Alexandria, 378-444, Patriarch of Alexandria*

A great man is always willing to be little. ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

We catch sight of a new key principle — the power of the Higher, just in so far as it is truly Higher, to come down, the power of the greater to include the less. Thus solid bodies exemplify many truths of plane geometry, but plane figures no truths of solid geometry: many inorganic propositions are true of organisms but no organic propositions are true of minerals; Montaigne became kittenish with his kitten but she never talked philosophy to him. Everywhere the great enters the little — its power to do so is almost the test of its greatness. ~ *C.S. Lewis, Miracles*

When the Christian faith is not only felt, but thought, it has practical results which may be inconvenient. ~ *T. S. Eliot, 1888-1965, British writer and social critic*

The assumption that the human-divine encounter takes place primarily in the realm of 'religious experience'... is challenged fundamentally by the heart of the Christian gospel. The earliest Christian...confession...[was] 'Jesus is Lord'. And 'Jesus is Lord' was never merely a statement of personal devotion. It was an announcement of a decisive event of secular human history, that had universal, indeed cosmic implications....
~ *Vinoth Ramachandra, Sri Lankan writer and human rights advocate*

PRELUDE

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

L O God, you pour out the Spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts,

A *May we, with steady minds and burning zeal, worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.*

Alex Mejias

JM Neale (trans.)



Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to death a
When this old world drew on toward night You came, but not in
At your great name, ma - jes - tic now, all knees must bend, all



- last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, we pray you,
u - ni - verse, you came to save a ru - ined race with heal - ing
splen - dor bright Not as a mon - arch, but the child Of Ma - ry
hearts must bow; all things on earth with one ac - cord join those in



hear us when we call.
gifts of heav'n - ly grace. (2)Come, oh come,
vir - gin mo - ther mild
heav'n to call you Lord. (4)Come, oh come,



Come, oh come, Come, oh come, to us.
Come, oh come, Come, oh come, to us.

Pastoral Prayer

L Root of Jesse, as you rise as a sign for all the peoples, and call forth the worship of all the nations, come quickly to deliver us from sin and death. Key of David, scepter over the house of Israel, your covenant people, open our hearts, our lives, our futures. Set free all who are imprisoned, all those who live in the valley of the shadow of death. Ruler of all nations, Lord of all time and space, you hold humanity together. As you lovingly formed us from the dust of the earth, lovingly reform, save, and renew us. Immanuel, our Lord, our hope and desire, come mightily to save us; our trust is in you. we rejoice in your faithfulness. Our hearts overflow with hope as we express our longing for the advent of our Lord. Prepare us to receive, honor, and follow him, our Messiah, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 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 Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. In Christ and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God. Amen.

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

Advent Candle Lighting

L Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of HOPE. With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

A May we receive God's light as we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah:
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined." – Isaiah 9:2 (light candle)

L Together, let us pray:

A *Lord as we look to the birth of Jesus, grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us. Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming, for Jesus is our hope. Amen.*

Prayer of Adoration (followed by Lord's Prayer)

L Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; we praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and for ever. Amen.

Hear us now as we prayer together, the words you taught your 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*

Puer Natus Est - A Child is Born

Daniel Justice Snoko

♩ = 110



A child is born un-to us a son has been giv - en up-



- on whose should-er pow-er rests; of his peace will be no end. He shall be My soul will



called al-might-y God, E - ter-nal Fa - ther Prince of Peace He shall be mag - ni-fy the Lord, Who has done might-y things for me. My soul will



called al-might-y God, E - ter-nal Fa - ther Prince of Peace mag - ni-fy the Lord, Who has done might-y things for me.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

John Francis Wade



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py morn-ing;



come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold Him, sing, all ye citi - zens of heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,



born the King of an - gels; glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore Him, O now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

- L Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long. Amen. – *from Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV*

Scripture Luke 1:26-38 (found on Page 15)

Series Advent 2023

Sermon A Son

Profession of Faith

- A *As followers of Jesus Christ,
living in this world –
which some seek to control,
and others view with despair –
we declare with joy and trust:
Our world belongs to God!
Remembering the promise
to reconcile the world to himself,
God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ –
the eternal Word made flesh.
He is the long-awaited Messiah,
one with us and one with God,
fully human and fully divine,
conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
We long for that day when our bodies are raised,
the Lord wipes away our tears,
and we dwell forever in the presence of God.
We will take our place in the new creation,
where there will be no more death,
or mourning or crying or pain,
and the Lord will be our light.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L God's Word assures us: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive our selves, 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*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- A *Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

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)

WORDS OF RENEWAL

L The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.

– based on Jeremiah 33:14-16, NRSV

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. – *Psalm 96:8-9, 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.

Prayer of 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.*