
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)

Session (session@randolphheights.org)

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

Looking Ahead

Epistle of James

Consider 1:1-4

Wisdom 1:5-8

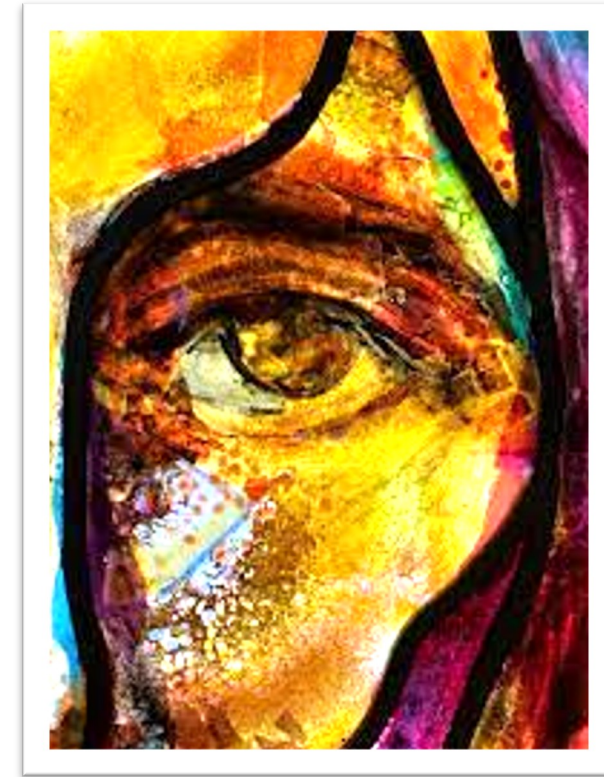
Becoming Wise 1:9-12

Temptation 1:9-15

Truth & Birth 1:16-18

Truth & Growth 1:19-21

Receiving & Growing 1:19-27



Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

January 07, 2024

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 James 1:1-4

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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 May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. 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

If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity. ~ *C.S. Lewis, 1898-1963, British author*

No one can get Joy by merely asking for it. It is one of the ripest fruits of the Christian life, and, like all fruits, must be grown.

~ *Henry Drummond, 1851-1897, Evangelist, Biologist, Lecturer, Writer*

The will of God is not something you add to your life. It's a course you choose. You either line yourself up with the Son of God...or you capitulate to the principle which governs the rest of the world.

~ *Elisabeth Elliott, 1926-2015, author, speaker and missionary*

We are never so defenseless against suffering as when we love, never so forlornly unhappy as when we have lost our love-object or its love.

~ *Sigmund Freud, 1856-1939, Civilization and Its Discontents*

So pain endures for a time. Its role is to purge us, to make us to know ourselves, and it drives us to the Lord to plead for mercy.

~ *Julian of Norwich, 1342- 1416, English anchoress, Revelations of Divine Love*

We all know people who have been made much meaner and more irritable and more intolerable to live with by suffering: it is not right to say that all suffering perfects. It only perfects one type of person – the one who accepts the call of God in Christ Jesus. ~ *Oswald Chambers, 1874-1917, Evangelist, Teacher*

There is only one unanswerable argument against Christianity: Christians.

~ *G. K. Chesterton, 1874-1936, Author, Writer*

PRELUDE

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

- L The Christ child is born! All you who would find him, prepare for a journey.
All you who would praise him, come with the faith to follow.
- A Let us worship him and come with humility to the child who shows
forth the immeasurable riches of God.

Sing We Now of Christmas

Trad. French Carol



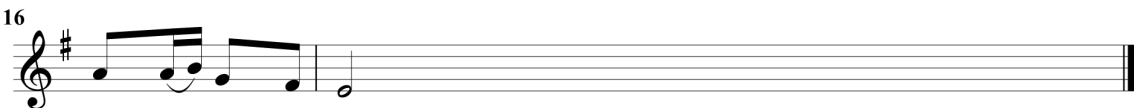
Sing we now of Christ-mas, No - el, sing we here!
In Beth - le - hem they found him; Jo - seph and Mar - y mild,
From the eas - tern coun - try came the kings a - far,
Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of great-est price;



Hear our grate-ful prais - es to the babe so dear.
seat - ed by the man - ger, watch - ing the ho - ly child.
bear - ing gifts to Beth le - hem guid - ed by a star.
there was ne'er a place on earth so like par - a - dise.



Sing we No-el, the King is born, No-el! Sing we now of Christ-mas,



sing we now No-el!

Pastoral Prayer

- L Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, your unworthy servants, 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 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 *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

Call to Worship

L O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

A *The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!*

L O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

A *The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!*

L O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

A *The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel! O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!*

Prayer of Adoration *(followed by Lord's Prayer)*

L Almighty Lord God, you gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world: We praise and magnify your holy name that in him you have revealed the wonder of your saving love to all people. With those of old who brought their tribute to his feet, confessing him as King of heaven and earth, we now present the worship of our grateful hearts, asking you to give us grace to give ourselves to you, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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*

Joy to the World

George Fredrick Handel

Isaac Watts



Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her King;
Joy to the earth, the Sa - vior reigns! Let all our songs em - ploy;
No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;
He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let e - 'vry heart pre - pare Him room, And
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re -
He comes to make His bless - ings flow Far
The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness, And



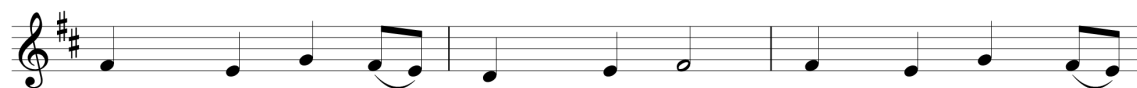
heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
- peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love, And



heav'n, and heav'n, and na - ture sing.
- peat, re - peat, the sound - ing joy.
as, far as, the curse is found.
won - ders, won - ders, of His love.

Jesus, Savior Pilot Me

$\text{♩} = 88$



Je - sus, Sa - vior, pi - lot me O - ver life's tem -
Though the sea be smooth and bright, Spark - ling with the
As a mo - ther stills her child, Thou can hush the
When at last I near the shore, And the fear - ful



- pest - uous sea; Un - known waves be - fore me roll,
stars of night, And my ship's path be a - blaze
o - cean wild; Boist - 'rous waves o - bey Thy will,
break - ers roar 'Twixt me and the peace - ful rest,



Hi - ding rock and treach - 'rous shoal. Chart and
With the light of hal - cyon days, Still I
When Thou says to them, "Be still!" Wond - rous
Then, while lean - ing on Thy breast, May I



com - pass come from Thee; Sa - vior, pi - lot me.
know my need of Thee; Sa - vior, pi - lot me.
Sov - reign of the sea, Sa - vior, pi - lot me
hear Thee say to me, "I will pi - lot thee."

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 James 1:1-4 (found on Page 15)

Series James: Faith on the Ground

Sermon Consider

Profession of Faith

A *What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness,
or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
– Romans 8:31-35, 37-39, NRSV*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. Let us confess our sin to God.
– based on John 3:19, NRSV

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

A *O God, our guide, who once led people to the Christ child, we confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way. Yet, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world, but we choose darkness, and we cling to things that hide the brightness of your love. Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life. We fail to follow the signs you provide.*

Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you. Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may bring your Word to our neighbor and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light, our pathway to life forever. Amen.

Silent and Personal Confession

Do Not I Love Thee

DETRIOT

Philip Doddridge



Do not I love Thee O my Lord? Look in my heart and see And
Do not I love Thee from my soul? Then test my ev' - ry love And
You know I Love Thee dear-est Lord And how I long to soar Help
[Do not I love Thee O my Lord?]



turn each i - dol from my heart That dares to ri - val Thee
turn my heart from ev - ry joy Where Je - sus can't be found.
me to know your sa - cred will And learn to love You more.

RENEWAL

L The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. – *John 1:9, 12, NIV*

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L Emmanuel, God with us,
The Magi followed the signs to find you. Amazed, they gave gifts. May we too be amazed by your presence among us, by the gift that you are to us. And with joyful hearts, we bring you our gifts, ourselves.

On This Day

Personent Hodie

Piae Cantiones, 1582



On this day earth shall ring with the song child - ren sing;
His the doom, ours the mirth, when he came down to earth;
God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led;
On this day an - gels sing; with their song earth shall ring,



To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be - side him,
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be - fore him,
prai - sing Christ, hea - ven's King, born on earth to save us;



Him the Fa - ther gave us.
from the cold would hide him Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, glo-ry to the
praise him and a - dore him.
peace and love he gave us.



Son, Glo-ry to the Ho-ly Ghost, to the three in one.

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.*