
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

Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

Looking Ahead

Epistle of James

Consider 1:1-4

Wisdom 1:5-8

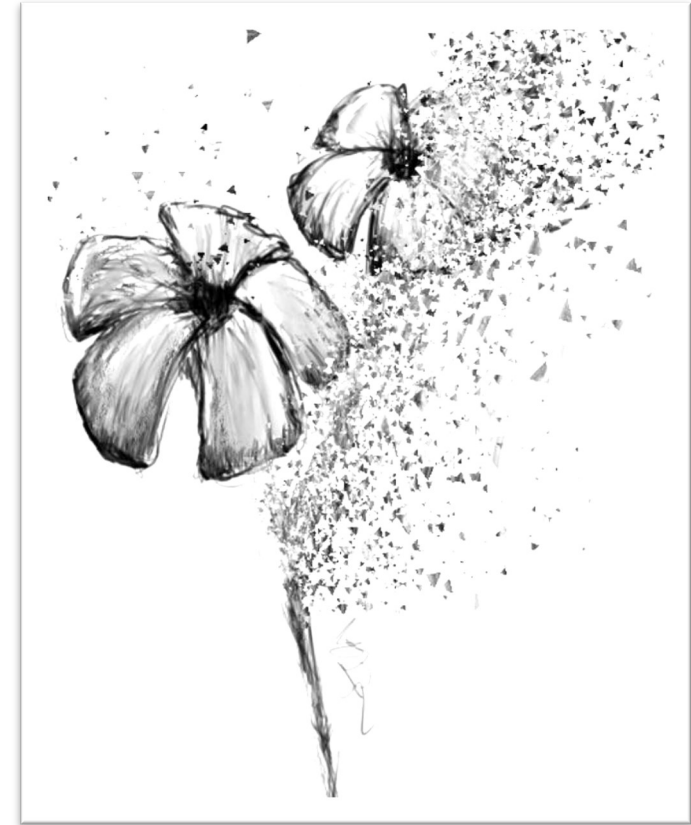
Becoming Wise 1:9-12

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 21, 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 1:9-12

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation – since they will pass away like a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

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

"Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." ~ *Jeremiah 9*

Thankfully, God has given us His self-revelation in the Bible. And anyone who takes the Bible seriously soon discovers that the issue is not to begin with us as human beings. ... You need to begin with God. ~ *Conrad Mbewe, Zambian pastor & author*

None of us starts off with a pure internal 'kit' of impulses, hopes and fears. If you are true to 'yourself', you will end up a complete mess. The challenge is to take the 'self' you find within, and to choose wisely which impulses and desires to follow, and which ones to resist.
~ *N.T. Wright, Scholar, Former Bishop of Durham*

If you have things you're unwilling to lose, evil will have power over you. ... Most people want to grow, but the price of growth is pain. ... Christ never intended to cover up the dark side of life, but rather to illuminate a path through it.
~ *Dan B. Allender, Author/Psychologist*

"If you are poor in spirit (feel far from God), mourning, meek (humble, restraining temper), hunger and thirst for righteousness, and merciful...God's favor is on you. ... If dependency on God is the goal, weakness is the advantage."
~ *Lecrae Devaughn Moore, 1979- , hip hop artist and songwriter*

Contentment is submitting and taking pleasure in God's [will]. A contented heart looks to and submits to God's [will], that is, he sees the wisdom of God in everything. In his submission, he sees His sovereignty; but what makes him take pleasure in God's wisdom? [It is this:] the Lord knows how to order things better than I. I only see things at present, but the Lord sees a great while from now.
~ *Jeremiah Burroughs, 1599-1646, The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*

There are very few people who realize what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into His hands and let themselves be formed by His grace.
~ *Ignatius of Loyola, Letter to Ascanio Colonna 1543*

PRELUDE

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

L Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

A Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.
– Psalm 95:1-2, NIV



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 Great God, glorify yourself in all the earth. Be glorified in creation, be glorified in your church. Though we are small, and you are so grand, help us to magnify your name. Help us to make your name and the nature of your grace larger and easier for people to see. Help us to live and to worship in such a way that we become like magnifying glasses through which our neighbors and coworkers and children and friends can see you come into focus in ways they may not have seen before. When people ask for an explanation of the hope we have, give us the words to answer thoughtfully and well. When people wonder out loud who Jesus is and why he matters, help us to reply in words that will echo the sweetness of your gospel. Help us to magnify your name, O Lord, so that you may be glorified in all the earth. Be glorified in all we do. We pray it ever and only in Jesus' precious name. 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 Gracious God, accept all these prayers offered in Jesus' name, and give us now the strength to wait patiently for your answer, and to live faithfully in response to your call. Through Christ, our Lord. 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 *(fr. Ps 62)*

L Trust in the LORD at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

A *Surely the lowborn are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie. If weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath.*

L Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

A *One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: "Power belongs to you, God, and with you, Lord, is unfailing love"; and, "You reward everyone according to what they have done."*

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

L O God, in creation you fashion us in your image, in Christ you reveal to us your love, through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers; we bow in gratitude before you. We constantly distort your image, but still you restore it. We daily betray your love, but still you extend it. We often disrupt fellowship, but still you bless it. Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord, that your image in us might be revealed, your love for us returned, and our fellowship in Christ renewed. 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*

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)*

Words & Music: Ben & Matt Redman

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 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 1:9-12 (found on Page 15)

Series James: Faith on the Ground

Sermon Wisdom, Paradox

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 We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- A *Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people.
You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ
to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic
than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than
obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive
our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to
a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit.
This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

All Sing: And Can it Be

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! Amazing love!
 How can it be that you would die for me? *(Refrain 2x)*

'Tis mystery the Immortal dies!
Who can explain His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
 'Tis mercy all! 'Tis mercy all!
 Let earth adore, angels inquire no more. *(Refrain 2x)*

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
 'Tis mercy all, 'Tis mercy all!
 Immense and free, His mercy found out me. *(Refrain 2x)*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
You came and shown the living way;
I woke, my dungeon flamed with light;
 My chains fell off, my chains fell off!
 My heart was free, I went and followed Him. *(Refrain 2x)*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 and claim my crown, claim it through Christ alone. *(Refrain 2x)*

 (and claim my crown, claim it through Christ alone.)

RENEWAL

L You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.
— Romans 8:15-17, NRSV

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L Freely you have received, freely give. —Matthew 10:8, NIV

A *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 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.*