
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

Looking Ahead

Epistle of James

Consider 1:1-4

Wisdom 1:5-8

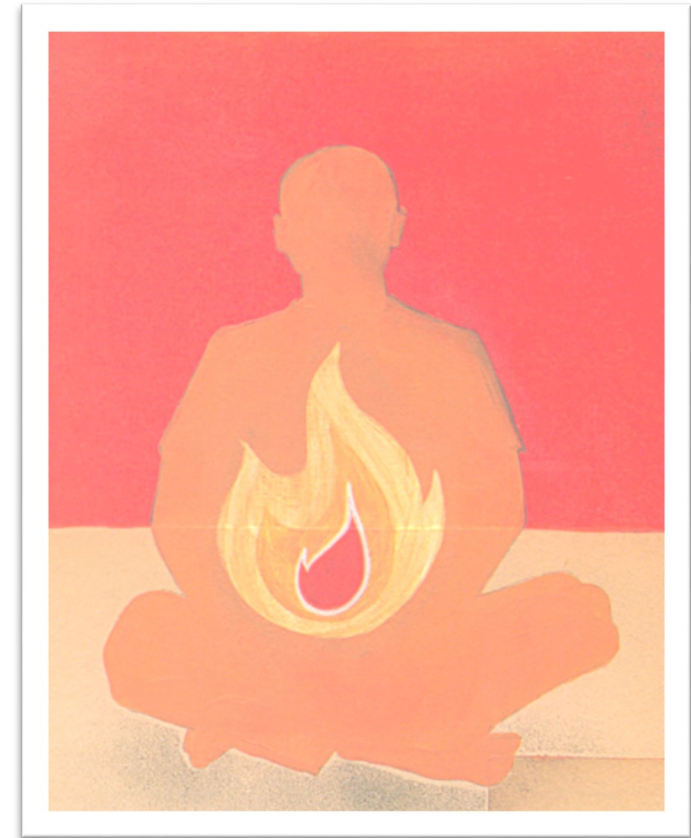
Becoming Wise 1:9-12

Temptation 1:9-15

Truth & Birth 1:16-18

Truth & Growth 1:19-21

Receiving & Growing 1:19-27



Saint Paul, MN

**Randolph Heights
Presbyterian Church**

435 Hamline Ave. South

January 28, 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 1:9-15

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.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

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

No evil dooms us hopelessly except the evil we love, and desire to continue in, and make no effort to escape from. ~ *George Eliot, Daniel Deronda*

The greatest temptations are not those that solicit our consent to obvious sin, but those that offer us great evils masking as the greatest goods.
~ *Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island*

There is something deeper than obedience because of duty, and that is obedience because of devotion. ~ *W. W. Wiersbe, 1929-2019, American pastor*

For you will certainly carry out God's purpose, however you act, but it makes a difference to you whether you serve like Judas or like John.
~ *C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain*

Laws and principles are not for the times when there is no temptation: they are for such moments as this, when body and soul rise in mutiny against their rigour ...
If at my convenience I might break them, what would be their worth?
~ *Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre*

There's too much tendency to attribute to God the evils that man does of his own free will. ~ *Agatha Christie*

Ultimately, it is the desire, not the desired, that we love. ~ *Friedrich Nietzsche*

That the Will is always determined by the strongest motive
~ *Jonathan Edwards, 1703-1758, Freedom Of The Will*

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, Writer*

PRELUDE

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

- L Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe. In your wisdom you have made all creation to worship you. You call us to worship you now in this time and place, in unity with prophets, martyrs, and saints from all times and places.
- A *As we prepare for worship, we pray that you will quiet our hearts, that we may hear your voice in your Word. 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.*

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)

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 life-giving 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 63)*

L I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer.
You satisfy me more than the richest feast.

A *I will praise you with songs of joy. I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night.*

L I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory.
Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!

A Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings.
I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely.

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*

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness (Tune)

Thomas O Chisholm

Great is thy faith-ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear
sha - dow of turn - ing with thee. Thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pre - sence to cheer and to guide, strength for to - day and bright
- pass-ions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - e - ver wilt be.
man-i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!
Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new
mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed. Great is thy
faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

How Great Thou Art

Stuart K. Hine

O Lord my God! When I in awe-some won-der Con-sid - er
And when I think that God, His Son not spar-ing, Sent Him to
When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me
all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the
die, I scarce can take it in; That on the
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall
stars, I hear the roll - ing thun - der, Thy power through-
cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing, He bled and
bow in hum - ble ad - or - a - tion, And there pro-
- out the u - ni - verse dis - played. Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to
died to take a - way my sin:
- claim, my God, how great Thou art!
Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my
soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

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 1:9-15 (found on Page 15)

Series James: Faith on the Ground

Sermon Temptation

Response

- A *You are the way to fullness of life, Lord Jesus;
that our hearts might be filled with joy,
hope, and peace, we pray;
that we might respond to opportunities, we pray;
that we might be strengthened to face challenges, we pray;
that we might become the persons we are called to be, we pray;
that we might learn to respect our sisters and brothers, we pray;
that we might see the needs of others and give help, we pray.
Amen.*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L The psalmist testifies: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me. In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God. – *based on Psalm 66:16, 18-20,*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- 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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Fredrick Wm. Faber



There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the
For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of the



5 sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-
mind, and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der - ful-ly



9 - ty. There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the
kind. If our love were but more sim - ple, we should rest up - on God's



13 good. There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his
word, and our lives would be ill - u - mined by the pre - sence of our



17 blood. There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his blood.
Lord. and our lives would be ill - u - mined by the pre - sence of our Lord.

RENEWAL

L God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

– Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1, NIV

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being. In the company of the upright, let us honor God for the blessings and goodness we have received.

– based on Psalm 111:1

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.*