
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.

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Looking Ahead

Epistle of James

<i>Growth in Mercy</i>	<i>James 2:5-17</i>
<i>Growth in Faith</i>	<i>James 2:14-26</i>
<i>Words</i>	<i>James 3:1-6</i>
<i>Power of Words</i>	<i>James 3:1-12</i>
<i>Easter</i>	
<i>Wise Relationships</i>	<i>James 3:9-18</i>
<i>Fights and Wars</i>	<i>James 4:1-3</i>
<i>Courage</i>	<i>James 4:4-10</i>



Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

February 25, 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 1:27-2:7

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

¹My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

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 As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
~ based on Colossians 3:12-14
- May 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

Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for other Christians is learning to listen to them. ~ DB

You will never glory in God till first of all God has killed your glorying in yourself.
~ *Charles H. Spurgeon, 19th Century Baptist Preacher*

We sometimes find God's forgiveness to be offensive: "It reveals us to be distressingly like everyone else! (And we are so special.)
~ *Thomas W. Currie III, 1946- , Professor of Theology, Author*

The Gospel takes away our right, forever, to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving...
~ *Dorothy Day, 1897-1980, Journalist and Social Activist*

We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption. And our charity must be real and costly love, with deep feelings for the sins in spite of which we love the sinner - no mere tolerance, or indulgence which parodies love as flippancy parodies merriment. ~ *C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory*

But the one who is not afraid to admit everything that he sees to be wrong with himself, and yet recognizes that he may be the object of God's love precisely because of his shortcomings, can begin to be sincere. His sincerity is based on confidence, not in his own illusions about himself, but in the endless, unfailing mercy of God.
~ *Thomas Merton, 1915-1968, Writer/Theologian/Am. Trappist Monk*

There is no such thing as an innocent reading, we must ask what reading we are guilty of. ~ *Louis Althusser, 1918-1990, French Philosopher*

True repentance always terminates on Jesus. It does not wallow in self-loathing or delight in self-flagellation. Rather, it allows an honest sense of our sinfulness to drive us toward the depth of Christ's mercy in the gospel.
~ *Kendal Haug & Will Walker, pastors, wrote 'Journey to the Cross'*

PRELUDE

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

- L Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith.
- A *Together may we glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*All Sing: Not to Us, O Lord
Not to us, O Lord, Not to us, O Lord
But to Thy name give glory
To Thy name give praise*

We were weak, You made us strong
You gave us hope when hope was gone
So, when we lift our song of praise
With single voice and mind,
Our thankful hearts will say... *(Refrain)*

Pastoral Prayer

- L O Savior God, look upon your church in its struggles. Have mercy on its weaknesses, give strength and courage to love the truth...

Look also upon the ministry of this congregation. Increase its courage, strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness to those in our sphere of influence and beyond, even to the ends of the earth. Have courage to join in Jesus' mission build and strengthen one-another.

Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children here present. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only Savior.

God is the one who makes us, loves us, and sustains us.

God is the one who makes, loves, and sustains the world.

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 To you, O LORD, do we lift up our souls. O God, in you we trust. Hear our prayers, O LORD and let our cries come to you.

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 15)*

L Let all that I am praise the LORD. Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. When they breathe their last, they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them.

A *But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the LORD their God.*

L He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The LORD frees the prisoners. The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

A *The LORD lifts up those who are weighed down. The LORD loves the godly. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked. The LORD will reign forever. Praise the LORD!*

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

L O God of all creation, you alone are God. And you alone can satisfy our longing for a support that earth cannot give and that heaven will not take away.

Help us, in recognition of our common dependence on you, to acknowledge our need of one another. Let the oneness of our worship make us one in love and service.

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 Creatures of Our God and King

Jonathan and Ryan Baird

St. Francis of Assisi



All crea - tures of our God and King
 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless
 All the re - deemed washed by His blood
 He shall re - turn in pow'r to reign



Lift up your voice and with us sing O praise Him! Al-le-
 And wor-ship Him in hum-ble - ness O praise Him! Al-le-
 Come and re - joice in His great love O praise Him! Al-le-
 Hea - ven and earth will join to say O praise Him! Al-le-



- lu - ia! Thou, burn - ing sun with gold - en beam
 - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son
 - lu - ia! Christ has de - feat - ed ev - 'ry sin
 - lu - jah! Then who shall fall on bend - ed knee?



Thou, sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam O praise Him! O
 And praise the Spi - rit, Three-in - One O praise Him! O
 Cast all your bur - dens now on Him O praise Him! O
 All crea - tures of our God and King O praise Him! O



praise Him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!
 praise Him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Arise My Soul Arise

Kevin Twit

Charles Wesley



A - rise, my soul, a - rise, shake off your guil - ty fears;
 He e - ver lives a - bove, for me to in - ter - cede;
 Five bleed - ing wounds He bears; re - ceived on Cal - var - y;
 My God is re - con - ciled; His pard - ning voice I hear;



The bleed - ing sac - ri - fice, on my be - half ap - pears;
 His all re - deem - ing love, His pre - cious blood, to plead;
 They pour ef - fect - ual prayers; they strong - ly plead for me:
 He owns me for His child; I can no long - er fear



Be - fore the throne my Sure - ty stands, Be - fore the throne
 His blood a - toned for ev - ry race, His blood a - toned
 "For - give him, O for - give," they cry, "For - give him, O
 With con - fi - dence I now draw nigh, With con - fi - dence



my Sure - ty stands, My name is writ - ten on His hands.
 for ev - ry race, And sprin - kles now the throne of grace.
 for - give," they cry, "Nor let that ran - somed sin - ner die!"
 I now draw nigh, And "Fa - ther, Ab - ba, Fa - ther," cry.



A - rise, a - rise, a - rise A - rise, my soul, a - rise.



Shake off your guil - ty fears and rise

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

L Lord God, may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. – based on Psalm 119:105, NRSV

Scripture James 1:27-2:7 (found on Page 15)

Series James: Faith on the Ground

Sermon Partiality

Response

L This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:

A *That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter,
and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God.*

– based on Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28; 1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Revelation 22:13

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. We express our longing for God's leading by our own transparent confession.

– based on Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

A *Holy God, we are weak, and we need your strength. Your Word is clear, and your grace is good. But we close our ears to your call, and with our pride we squander the gifts you have given us. Like your servant Paul, we know what you require of us; yet, like Paul, what we do is not the good we want to do, and the evil we do not want to do, that evil we keep on doing. We mistreat those we love, and we dishonor you, the One who made us.*

How long, O Lord, will we continue to ignore your will? Yet you provide streams of living mercy; you invite us again and again to live renewed lives. So we turn once again to the cross, to the empty cross, to the stone rolled away, to our interceding Lord Jesus Christ seated at your right hand, to the gracious gift of your Spirit.

We seek your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. We draw upon your promises, and we ask once again simply for mercy. With your Holy Spirit, sanctify us. Hear our prayer, O Lord, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

Silent and Personal Confession

Before the Throne of God Above

Arr Vicki Cook

Charitie Lees Bancroft

Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
 When Sa - tan tempts me to des-pair And tells me of the guilt with-
 Be - hold Him there, the ri - sen Lamb My per - fect, spot - less Right-eous-

5
 plea A great High Priest whose name is love Who ev - er lives and pleads for
 - in Up-ward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my
 - ness The great un - change-a - ble I AM The King of glo - ry and of

9
 me My name is gra - ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His
 sin Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died My sin - ful soul is count - ed
 grace One with Him - self, I can - not die My soul is pur - chased with His

13
 heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can
 free For God the Just is sat - is - fied To look on
 blood My life is hid with Christ on high With Christ my

16
 bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part
 Him and par - don me To look on Him and par - don me
 Sav - ior and my God With Christ my Sav - ior and my God

RENEWAL

L Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit
 there is no deceit. – *Psalm 32:1-2, NRSV*

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we
 give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

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.*