
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

March 03, 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 2:5-17

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? But 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? Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

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

The woman says to herself and to anyone who will listen, "I thank you God that you didn't make me and my husband Claude black. But if the choice was between making me black and making me white trash, God, I would rather you make me black. I couldn't bear to be white trash."

The book struck her directly, over her left eye. It struck almost at the same instant that she realized the girl was about to hurl it. Before she could utter a sound, the raw face came crashing across the table toward her, howling. The girl's fingers sank like clamps around the soft flesh of her neck. (The Girl is 'Mary Grace')
~ *Flannery O'Connor, Revelation*

The really important kind of freedom involves attention, and awareness, and discipline, and effort, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them, over and over, in myriad petty little unsexy ways, every day. That is real freedom. The alternative is unconsciousness, the default-setting, the 'rat race' — the constant gnawing sense of having had and lost some infinite thing.
~ *David Foster Wallace, 1962-2008, American author and professor*

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.
~ *Elie Wiesel, 1928-2016, Romanian-American Writer and Professor*

Justice is for those who deserve it; mercy is for those who don't.
~ *Woodrow Kroll, 1944- , Preacher / Radio Host*

Evil begins when you begin to treat people as things.
~ *Terry Pratchett, 1948-2016. I Shall Wear Midnight*

Nothing is easier than to denounce the evildoer; nothing is more difficult than to understand him. ~ *Fyodor Dostoevsky, 1821-1881, Russian Novelist*

PRELUDE

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

- L There is none like you, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you.
- A We shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things, you alone are God. – from Psalm 86:8-10, NRSV

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Cruger

Martin Rinkart, tr Catherine Winkworth

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voi-
ces, Who won-drous things has done, in Whom this world re-
us, With e-ver joy-ful hearts and bles-sèd peace to
6 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be gi-
10 - ces, The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in high-est
- joi - ces; Who from our mo - thers' arms has
cheer us; And keep us in His grace, and
14 hea - ven; The one e - ter - nal God, Whom
blessed us on our way With count-less gifts of love, and
guide us when per-plexed, And free us from all ills in
18 earth and heav'n a - dore; For thus it was, is now, and
still is ours to - day.
this world and the next!
shall be ev - er - more.

Pastoral Prayer

- L Almighty God, Father of mercies, we 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 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 125)*

L Those who trust in the LORD are as secure as Mount Zion; they will not be defeated but will endure forever.

A *Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, both now and forever.*

L The wicked will not rule the land of the godly, for then the godly might be tempted to do wrong. O LORD, do good to those who are good, whose hearts are in tune with you.

A *But banish those who turn to crooked ways, O LORD. Take them away with those who do evil. May Israel have peace!*

Prayer of Adoration (followed by Lord's Prayer)

L O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart. Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to his people according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses.

Now incline our hearts to You, Lord, to walk in Your ways, and to keep Your commandments, Your statutes, and Your ordinances, which You commanded our ancestors.
– 1 Kings 8:23, 56-58, NRSV

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: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Oh for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King the triumphs of His grace

Jesus! the name that charms our fears that bids our sorrows cease
'Tis music in the sinner's ears 'tis life and health and peace

He breaks the power of canceled sin He sets the prisoner free
His blood can make the foulest clean His blood availed for me

He speaks, and listening to His voice new life the dead receive
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice the humble poor believe

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb Your loosened tongues employ
Ye blind, behold your Savior come and leap, ye lame, for joy

Glory to God, and praise and love be ever, ever given
By saints below and saints above the church in earth and heaven

I Stand Amazed

Charles H Gabriel

I stand a - mazed in the pre - sence Of Je - sus the Na - za -
He took my sins and my sor - rows He made them his ve - ry
When with the ran - somed in glo - ry His face I, at last, shall
5
- rene And won - der how He could love me A
own He bore the bur - den to Cal va - ry He
see, 'Twill be my joy through the a - ges To
8
sin - ner con - demned, un - clean How mar - vel - ous,
suf - fered and died a - lone
sing of His love for me.
11
how won - der - ful And my song will e - ver be How mar - vel - ous,
14
how won - der - ful Is my Sa - viour's love for me

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 2:5-17 (found on Page 15)

Series James: Faith on the Ground

Sermon Mercy

Response

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

*Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L When we see God's beautiful holiness, we recognize our own lack of holiness. God is light and truth, yet we live among shadows and lies. People of God, let us acknowledge who and whose we are; let us ask our powerful God to illumine us with grace and truth in Jesus, our Lord.

A *God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the kingdom of heaven is given to them. But we have been proud in spirit, inflated with pride in our own self-sufficiency. We have forgotten how needy we are.*

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. But we have not mourned over our sins, instead we have insulated ourselves from those around us, from their pain, needs, loneliness, and suffering. We have even hardened ourselves so that we are unaware that our own lives cause grief to the Lord.

God blesses those who are gentle and lowly, for the whole earth will be their inheritance. But we have valued toughness over gentleness. We have too often chosen to be concerned with ourselves rather than with our brothers and sisters and neighbors. Like the prodigal son, we want to satisfy ourselves rather than our Father.

Lord, please show us your mercy.

*Lord, have mercy upon us in the name of the Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

All Sing: Change My Heart Oh God

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You

You are the potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray

Renewal

L The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are
bowed down.

– Psalm 145:13-14, 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.*