
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)

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

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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 10, 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 2:14-26

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.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds 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

What God said to Abraham was not 'Obey this law and I will bless you', but 'I will bless you; believe my promise' ~ *John Stott, 1921-2011, Anglican Priest/Theologian*

Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right. ~ *Max Lucado, 1955- , American Author/Minister*

I find your lack of faith ... disturbing. ~ *Darth Vader, Cyborg Sith Lord*

Hope has two beautiful daughters Their names are anger and courage; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.
~ *Augustine of Hippo, 354-430, Theologian/Philosopher*

The paradox of courage is that a man must be a little careless of his life even in order to keep it. ~ *G.K. Chesterton, 1874-1936, Writer/Apologist*

God will not have his work made manifest by cowards. ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Those who have been justified are now being sanctified; those who have no experience of present sanctification have no reason to suppose they have been justified.
~ *F.F. Bruce, 1910-1990, British Scholar/Theologian*

"When we are securely rooted in personal intimacy with the source of life, it will be possible to remain flexible without being relativistic, convinced without being rigid, willing to confront without being offensive, gentle and forgiving without being soft, and true witnesses without being manipulative."
~ *Henri Nouwen, 1932-1996, Dutch Catholic priest*

What are you doing right now that requires faith? ~ *Francis Chan, Crazy Love*

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*

O God Our Help in Ages Past

KINGSFOLD (Tune)

Isaac Watts



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 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

L In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

A *Let us gather together, alive to the Word of God.*

L You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

A *Let us listen together, alive to the Word of God.*

L You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom, sometimes startling and unexpected, sometimes still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.

A *We watch and wait for the Word of God.*

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:

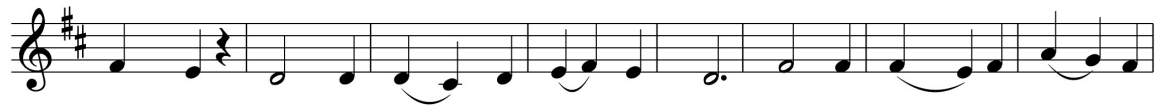
A *Our Father,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*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*

Holy God We Praise Thy Name



Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow be-
Hark, the glad cel - est - ial hymn an - gel choirs a - bove are
All a - post - les join the strain join the sa - cred name to
Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spi - rit, Three we



- fore you; All on earth your sce-pter claim, all in heav'n a - bove a -
rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim in un - ceas - ing chor - us
hal - low; Pro - phets swell the glad re - frain, and the bless - ed mar - tyrs
name you; While in ess - ence on - ly One, un - di - vid - ed God we



- dore you. In - fi - nite your vast do-main, ev - er - last - ing
prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with sweet ac-cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly,
fol - low; And from morn to set of sun, through the church the
claim you, And a - dor - ing bend the knee, while we sing this



is your reign. ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
ho - ly Lord." "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord."
song goes on. through the church the song goes on.
mys - ter - y. while we sing this mys - ter - y.

Rock of Ages

Thomas Hastings

Augustus Toplady



Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in
Not the la - bor of my hands Can ful - fill Thy law's de-
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, Simp - ly to Thy cross I
While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in



Thee; Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy
- mands; Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my
cling; Nak - ed, come to Thee for dress; Help - less,
death, When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee



ri - ven side which flowed, Be of sin the dou - ble
tears for - ev - er flow, All for sin could not a -
look to Thee for grace; Foul, I to the foun - tain
on Thy judg - ment throne, Rock of Ag - es, cleft for



- cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and power.
- tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
fly; Wash me, Sa - vior, or I die.
me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

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 2:14-26 (found on Page 15)

Series James: Faith on the Ground

Sermon Faith

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

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 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.*