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## 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

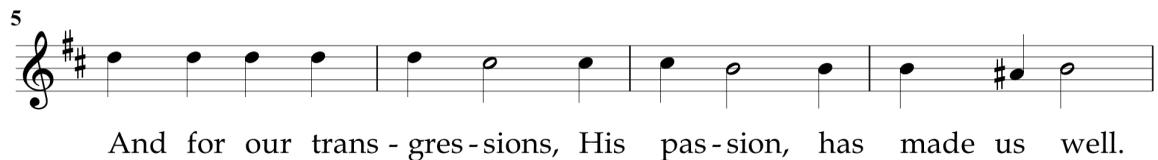
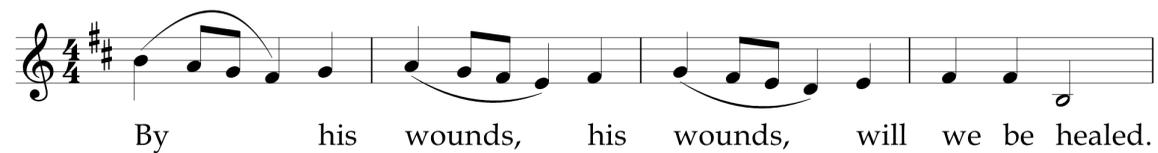
*Office Hours:* Thurs & Fri 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Office Admin ([secretary@randolphheights.org](mailto:secretary@randolphheights.org))

Session ([session@randolphheights.org](mailto:session@randolphheights.org))

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

*Or Email @ [ken.highley@randolphheights.org](mailto:ken.highley@randolphheights.org)*



## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

**August 04, 2024**

9:30am Discussion

10:30am Worship

[www.randolphheights.org](http://www.randolphheights.org)

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## 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.*

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## Scripture Reading Psalm 127 (NLT)

*A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of Solomon.*

- 1 Unless the Lord builds a house,  
the work of the builders is wasted.  
Unless the Lord protects a city,  
guarding it with sentries will do no good.
- 2 It is useless for you to work so hard  
from early morning until late at night,  
anxiously working for food to eat;  
for God gives rest to his loved ones.
- 3 Children are a gift from the Lord;  
they are a reward from him.
- 4 Children born to a young man  
are like arrows in a warrior's hands.
- 5 How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!  
He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.

L This is the Word of the Lord.  
A *Thanks be to God!*

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## 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.

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## *Reflect, Resonate, Reevaluate, Respond*

It's not true that life is one damn thing after another; it is one damn thing over and over.  
~ Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1892-1950, Poet & Playwright

The full he empties, and the empty he fills. ~ Charles Spurgeon, 19th Cent. Pastor

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Illusion is needed to disguise the emptiness within.

~ Arthur Erickson, 1924-2009, Architect & Urban planner

Let him who cannot be alone beware of community...Let him who is not in community beware of being alone...Each by itself has profound pitfalls and perils. One who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words and feelings, and one who seeks solitude without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-infatuation, and despair.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from *Life Together*

The same feeling of not belonging, of futility, wherever I go: I pretend interest in what matters nothing to me, I bestir myself mechanically or out of charity, without ever being caught up, without ever being somewhere. What attracts me is elsewhere, and I don't know where that elsewhere is.

~ Emil M. Cioran, 1911-1995, Romanian Philosopher, *The Trouble With Being Born*

In a full heart there is room for everything, and in an empty heart there is room for nothing. ~ Antonio Porchia, 1885-1968, Author of 'Voces, a book of aphorisms'

God's plan was to bring into being a host of sons and daughters whom He would indwell; through whom He would live and manifest Himself; in and through whom Christ would reign supreme. We are the beneficiaries of that plan. God, in His love and grace, has made us a part of His plan. But we are not the center of it; Christ is.

~ Dan Stone, 1971- , Author, *The Rest of the Gospel*

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## PRELUDE

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

L O God, by your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.

*– based on Ephesians 3:18-19*

A *Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ, that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen. – based on Psalm 19:14*

*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)*

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## Pastoral Prayer

O great God, glorify yourself in all the earth. Be glorified in creation, be glorified in your church, be glorified in our worship here this very morning. Though we are so small and you are so grand, help us nevertheless 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.

### 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. To you, O LORD, do we lift up our voices, O God, in you we trust. Amen *– from Psalm 25:1-2, NRSV*

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## 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*

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.*

\* *By His Wounds (can be sung as a round)*

*By his wounds, his wounds, will we be healed.  
And for our transgressions, His passion, has made us well.  
Let us come again and feed on Him, our Lord Emmanuel.*

### *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*

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## Call to Worship

L Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

A *who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;*

L The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

A *The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!*

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

L God, You are mighty and tender, voice of the voiceless, power of the powerless: we praise you for your vision of a community of wholeness, in which all who hunger and thirst are nourished, in which the stranger is welcomed, the hurting are healed, and the captive is set free. Guide us by your truth and love until we and all your people make manifest your reign of justice and compassion.

Hear us now, as we pray together, the words Jesus taught his 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*

# Blessed be Our God and King (Ps 124)

David Isaac Rivers



Sur-round-ed by the dark-ness, The clam-or, and the lies.  
Our Shack-les crum-ble un-der The weight of His de-light



We are not ab-and-oned, The Lord is by our side. He  
Taste His sweet af-fec-tion The Lord is by your side Cre-



broke the jaws of e-vil. He brings the dead to life. Our  
a-tion sings His pro-mise: We'll dance in crowns of light The



Sa-vior stands a-mong us, The Lord is by our side.  
feast is set be-fore us The Lord is by our side



Bless-ed be our God & King He has res-cued us In-to His arms we



give our-selves For He is our great love

# In Christ Alone

Stuart Townend

Keith Getty



In Christ a-lone, my hope is found He is my  
In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh Full-ness of  
There in the ground His bod-y lay Light of the  
No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the



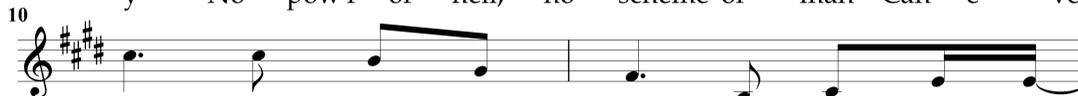
light, my strength, my song This Cor-ner-stone,  
God in help-less babe This gift of love  
world by dark-ness slain Then burst-ing forth  
power of Christ in me From life's first cry



this so-lid ground Firm through the fier-cest drought and  
and right-eous-ness Scorned by the ones He came to  
in glor-ious Day Up from the grave He rose a-  
to fi-nal breath Je-sus com-mands my des-tin-



storm What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are  
save 'Til on that cross as Je-sus died The wrath of  
- gain And as He stands in vic-tor-y Sin's curse has  
- y No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can e-ver



stilled, when stri-vings cease My Com-fort-er,  
God was sat-is-fied For ev-'ry sin  
lost its grip on me For I am His  
pluck me from His hand Till He re- turns



my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand  
on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live  
and He is mine Bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ  
or calls me home Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### Preparation

- L Lord God, let the words of your servant's mouth and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer. Through Christ. Amen.  
— based on Psalm 19:14, NRSV

**Scripture** Psalm 127 (found on Page 15)  
**Series** Pilgrim Journey (Psalms of Ascents)  
**Sermon** Building

### Response

- A O Christ, by remaining faithful till death,  
you show us the road to greater love.  
By taking the burden of sin upon yourself,  
you reveal to us the way of generosity.  
By praying for those who crucified you,  
you lead us to forgive without counting the cost.  
By opening paradise to the repentant thief,  
you awaken hope in us.  
You have come to help our weak faith.  
O Christ, create a pure heart in us; renew and strengthen our spirit.  
O Christ, your Word is near; may it live within us and protect us always.  
Amen.

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## 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 *Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*

*For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.  
— Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18, NRSV*

### Silent and Personal Confession

## God is My Strong Salvation

James Montgomery

Wedlock

God is my strong sal - va - tion, What foe have I to  
Place on the Lord re - li - ance, My soul, with cour - age  
In heav'n-ly love a - bid - ing, no change my heart shall  
Wher-ev - er he may guide me, no want shall turn me

5  
fear? In dark - ness and temp - ta - tion, My  
wait; His truth be thine af - fi - ance, When  
fear; and safe is such con - fi - ding, for  
back; my Shep - herd is be - side me, and

8  
light, my help is near: Though hosts en - camp a -  
faint and de - sol - ate: His might thine heart shall  
no - thing chang - es here: the storm may roar with -  
no - thing can I lack: his wis - dom ev - er

11  
- round me, Firm to the fight I stand: What  
strength - en, His love thy joy in - crease; Mer -  
- out me, my heart may low be laid; but  
wak - eth, his sight is ne - ver dim, he

14  
ter - ror can con - found me, With God at my right hand?  
- cy thy days shall length-en, "The Lord will give thee peace."  
God is round a - bout me, and can I be dis - mayed?  
knows the way he tak - eth, and I will walk with him.

## Renewal

L But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone. ~ Ps 33

A *Thanks be to God!*

## Doxology

L Give to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Let each of us use whatever gift we have received, faithfully sharing God's grace in many forms.

## Dedication

A *Lord, we thank you 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.*