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## A Glance at the Week

### Monday

7:00 am Men's Discussion (Zoom)

6:30 pm Small Group (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))

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## Looking Ahead

### Book of Acts:

8/22 -	Gospel to Simon	8:9-25
8/29—	Gospel to the African	8:26-40

Study in Proverbs: Finding Wisdom  
9/05— Wisdom in Proverbs



## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

## August 22, 2021

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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## Acts 8:9-26

For some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God." They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

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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 May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us, and the love of God, which enables us to love all, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body, make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
~ based on 2 Corinthians 13:13 [14]

### 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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## Reflection:

...humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone.  
~ *Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), French mathematician and writer*

Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm; but the harm does not interest them. Or they do not see it, or they justify it because they are absorbed in the endless struggle to think well of themselves.  
~ *T.S. Eliot*

We must allow the Word of God to confront us, to disturb our security, to undermine our complacency and to overthrow our patterns of thought and behavior.  
~ *John R.W. Stott (1921-2011), noted English clergyman and theologian*

How much larger your life would be, if your self could become smaller in it.  
~ *G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), English writer and journalist*

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## PRELUDE

A *All Sing: You Are With Me (Ps 139)*

How precious are Your thoughts, O God.  
How vast is the sum of them.  
I would spend days and nights counting them  
and never reach the end;  
And when I awake - You are with me.  
So search me; know my heart.  
Test me; know my thoughts.  
Lead me in your ways.  
Search me, test me, lead me  
In Your ways.

*Words & Music by: The Crossing Music*

### Call to Worship *(from Psalm 29)*

L Honor the Lord, you heavenly beings; honor the Lord for his glory and strength.  
Honor the Lord for the glory of his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of  
his holiness.

A *The voice of the Lord echoes above the sea. The God of glory thunders. The  
Lord thunders over the mighty sea.*

L The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. The voice  
of the Lord splits the mighty cedars; the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon's mountains skip like a calf; he makes Mount Hermon leap  
like a young wild ox.

A *The voice of the Lord strikes with bolts of lightning. The voice of the Lord makes  
the barren wilderness quake; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. In his  
Temple everyone shouts, "Glory!" The Lord rules over the floodwaters. The  
Lord reigns as king forever. The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord  
blesses them with peace.*

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## Pastoral Prayer

L God Calls us to be a praying people. Let us join in prayer, offering our  
praise, thanksgiving, and intercession to God.

### 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 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or  
imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be  
glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for  
ever and ever! Amen. *(Eph 3:20-21)*

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## The Lord's Table *(Offered 1st Sunday of Month)*

### Invitation to the Table

- L O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.  
— Psalm 34:8, NRSV
- L God meets us in the sacraments, communicating grace to us by means of water, bread, and wine. In baptism, whether of the newly born or newly converted, God reminds and assures us of our union with Christ in covenant love, the washing away of our sin, and the gift of the Holy Spirit— expecting our love and trust in return. In the Lord's Supper, Christ offers his own crucified body and shed blood to his people, assuring them a share in his death and resurrection. By the Holy Spirit, he feeds us with his resurrection life and binds us to each other as we share one loaf and cup.
- 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.*

### Prayer of Thanks

- A *Holy God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory, and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup. We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord, our God.*

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

- L Blessed are you, Lord our God.  
How sweet are your words to the taste,  
sweeter than honey to the mouth.  
How precious are your commands for our life,  
more than the finest gold in our hands.  
How marvelous is your will for the world,  
Unending is your love for the nations.  
Our voices shall sing of your promises  
and our lips declare your praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever.  
*An Anglican Prayer*

- 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*

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*All Sing: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia Praise with us the God of grace.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Praise the everlasting King!



Make me a ca - ptive, Lord, and then I shall be free; force  
My heart is weak and poor un - til its mas - ter find; it  
My will is not my own till thou hast made it thine; if



me to ren - der up my sword, and I shall con - queror be. I  
has no spring of ac - tion sure, it var - ies with the wind. It  
it would reach a mon - arch's throne, it must its crown re - sign; it



sink in life's a - larms when by my - self I stand; im -  
can - not free - ly move till thou hast wrought its chain; en -  
on - ly stands un - bent a - mid the clash - ing strife, when



- pris - on me with - in thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.  
- slave it with thy match - less love, and death - less it shall reign.  
on thy bo - som it has leant, and found in thee its life.

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**Scripture** Acts 8:9-26 (found on Page 15)

**Series** Book of Acts

**Sermon** The Gospel and Simon

### *Profession of Faith*

A I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.  
~ *Apostles' Creed*

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## 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.

L We express our longing for God's leading by our own transparent  
confession. – based on Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

*All Sing: Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

Look, how we grovel here below,  
Fond of these earthly toys;  
Our souls, how heavily they go,  
To reach eternal joys.

Refrain: Come, Holy Spirit, Heav'nly Dove,  
With all Thy quick'ning pow'rs;  
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love,  
And that shall kindle ours.

In vain we tune our formal songs,  
In vain we strive to rise;  
Hosannas languish on our tongues,  
And our devotion dies.

And Father, shall we ever live  
At this poor dying rate,  
Our love so faint, so cold to Thee,  
And Thine to us so great?

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## RENEWAL

A *Faithful God,*

*You are better to us than we deserve. You are faithful to fulfill your commitment in giving us the goodness of Christ. Yet we are quick to forget the wonderful gifts you have given. We are impatient, forgetting your goodness and power. Forgive us.*

*Jesus,*

*Thank you for your faithfulness. You had unwavering faith and unshakable hope in your father's goodness. You took refuge in him in your times of need and never turned away. We have no other sure hope than in you.*

*Holy Spirit,*

*May your power work within us to stir up our hope. Help us to know and worship God as He truly is. Cause us to know with certainty, God's love for us, until we are transformed into people, who love deeply, and run the race with confidence. Looking forward to the triumphant coming of our heavenly King. Amen.*

### **Silent and Personal Confession**

L Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old. – *Micah 7:18-20, NRSV*

A *Thanks be to God!*

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## *Doxology*

*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.*

### **Prayer of 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.*