
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

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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 from Proverbs



Randolph Heights
Presbyterian

August 29, 2021

9:30am Discussion
10:30am Worship

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.

Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

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 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.

Reflection:

I know by my own experience how, from a stranger met by chance, there may come an irresistible appeal which overturns the habitual perspectives just as a gust of wind might tumble down the panels of a stage set – what had seemed near becomes infinitely remote and what had seemed distant seems to be close.
~ *Gabriel Marcel, French Existentialist Philosopher, 1889-1973*

Freedom is not a quality of man, nor is it an ability, a capacity, a kind of being that somehow flares up in him. Anyone investigating man to discover freedom finds nothing of it. Why? because freedom is not a quality which can be revealed -- it is not a possession, a presence, an object, nor is it a form of existence--but a relationship and nothing else. In truth, freedom is a relationship between two persons. Being free means "being free for the other," because the other has bound me to him. Only in relationship with the other am I free.
~ *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945, Author / Theologian*

Africans sensed in their hearts that Jesus did not mock their respect for the sacred or their clamor for an invincible Savior, so they beat their sacred drums for him until the stars skipped and danced in the skies. After that dance the stars weren't little anymore. Christianity helped Africans to become renewed Africans, not remade Europeans.
~ *Lamin Sanneh, 1942-2019, Professor of world missions and history, Yale*

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 22)*

L O LORD, do not stay far away! You are my strength; come quickly to my aid! I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people.

A *Praise the LORD, all you who fear him! Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob! Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy.*

L I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you. The poor will eat and be satisfied.

A *All who seek the LORD will praise him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.*

L The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him. For royal power belongs to the LORD. He rules all the nations.

A *Let the rich of the earth feast and worship. Bow before him, all who are mortal, all whose lives will end as dust. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord. His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born. They will hear about everything he has done.*

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)*

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

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

- L We come before you, Master, our helper and defender. You rescue those of our number in distress; You raise up the fallen; assist the needy; heal the sick; turn back those of your people who stray; feed the hungry; release our captives; revive the weak; encourage those who lose heart. Let all the nations realize that you are the only God, that Jesus Christ is your Child, and that we are your people and the sheep of your pasture. *(1 Clement c. 96)*
- 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

All Sing: Let us love and sing and wonder

Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood (3x)
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood (3x)
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqueror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood, (3x)
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He Who washed us with His blood (3x)
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood (3x)
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Acts 8:26-40 (found on Page 15)

Series Book of Acts

Sermon The Gospel and the Ethiopian

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*

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: Humble Thyself in the Sight of the LORD / Awesome God

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord. (Echo)

And He will lift you up, higher and higher.

And He will lift you up. (2x)

Our god is an awesome god;

He reigns from heaven above

With wisdom, power and love;

Our god is an awesome god (1x)

RENEWAL

A *Faithful God,*

You have united our lives to Christ so that his perfect life, and his death, was counted as our life and death. We have died and been buried with him, and in him we shall live forever. Thank-you.

We confess that our minds are not often set upon these truths. Our thoughts would rather be on other things. Instead of delighting in Christ, we delight in ourselves. Forgive us.

Holy Spirit, renew our minds by your power. Transform our thinking so that even our failings drive us to Christ. Build within us a confidence, that you will certainly finish the work you have begun according to your plan. Amen.

Silent and Personal Confession

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

A *Thanks be to God!*

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.*