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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))

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)*

## Looking Ahead

### Galatians— Freedom, Family, Gospel

03/27/22 A Startling Word 4:8-11

04/03/22 Always Re-forming 4:12-20

04/10/22 Child of Promise 4:19-31

04/17/22 Resurrection 1 5:1-8 (Easter)

04/24/22 Resurrection 2 5:5-18

05/01/22 Resurrection 3 5:16-25



## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

### April 10, 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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## Scripture Reading: Galatians 4:21-31

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written:

“Be glad, barren woman,  
you who never bore a child;  
shout for joy and cry aloud,  
you who were never in labor;  
because more are the children of the desolate woman  
than of her who has a husband.”

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son.” Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

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 The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. – Numbers 6:24-26, NIV

## 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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## Reflections

Some people ask, "Who am I?" and expect the answer to come from their accomplishments. Other people ask, "Who am I?" and expect the answer to come from what other people think about them.

~ Thomas G. Long and Cornelius Plantinga, eds., *A Chorus of Witnesses*

Living the Christian life is fairly easy if everything is going our way. But add a little stress, a little hardship, a little bit of despair, and we quickly find ourselves at a mental fork in the road: to rest in the promises of God or to go our own way. God's promises are for you, even when He seems to be so far away. And even in *your* darkest moments, *God has promised* to care for you.

~ *Unknown*

He also said we should carve in the year and place where I was born, but I said no. As a man dies many times before he's dead, so does he wend from birth to birth until, by grace, he comes alive at last. ~ **Frederick Buechner, Godric**

Journal writing is a wonderful pathway to self-awareness.

~ *Dr. Rand Olson, Author, Ultimate guide to Raising Healthy Kids*

So it is with God's Story. The Bible has a beginning, a middle, and an end. This story line makes sense of our world and explains how we fit into God's eternal plan. It gives us a context, a grid through which to process hard things that come into our lives.

~ *Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, 1958- , Radio host and Author*

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## PRELUDE

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

*All Sing: Step by Step*

Oh God, You are my God And I will ever praise you (2x)  
I will seek You in the morning / And I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me / And I will follow You all of my days  
(Repeat Section)

I will follow You all of my days / And I will follow You all of my days  
And step by step You'll lead me / And I will follow You all of my days

### Call to Worship *(from Psalm 31)*

- L O LORD, I have come to you for protection; don't let me be disgraced.  
Save me, for you do what is right. Turn your ear to listen to me; rescue me quickly.
- A *Be my rock of protection, a fortress where I will be safe. You are my rock and my fortress.*
- L I entrust my spirit into your hand. I trust in the LORD. I will be glad and rejoice in your unfailing love, for you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul.
- A *You have not handed me over to my enemies but have set me in a safe place.*
- L I am trusting you, O LORD, saying, "You are my God!" My future is in your hands. Let your favor shine on your servant. How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.
- A *You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.*

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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.
- A *Jesus the Christ, you refused to turn stones into bread. Save us from using our power, however little, to satisfy the demands of selfishness in the face of the greater needs of others.*
- Jesus the Christ, you refused to leap from the temple top. Save us from displaying our skills, however modest, to win instant popularity in the face of nobler calls on our abilities.*
- Jesus the Christ, you refused to bend the knee to a false god. Save us from offering our devotion, however weak, to cheap or easy religion in the face of the harder path on which you bid us to follow you.*
- Jesus the Christ, give us wisdom to discern evil, and in the face of all that is deceptively attractive help us to choose the will of God. 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 May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.  
*– from Psalm 19:14, NIV*

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

### *Invitation to the Table*

L This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

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 *Almighty God, Source of all life and love,  
we live in your world, which you are always  
creating and sustaining by your power,  
You have so made us that we can know and love you,  
trust and serve you.*

*We give you thanks, that you loved the world so much  
that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him  
may not die but have eternal life. Amen.*

### *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 O God, in creation you fashion us in your image,  
in Christ you reveal to us your love,  
through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers;  
we bow in gratitude before you.  
We constantly distort your image, but still you restore it.  
We daily betray your love, but still you extend it.  
We often disrupt fellowship, but still you bless it.  
Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord,  
that your image in us might be revealed, your love for us returned,  
and our fellowship in Christ renewed. Amen.

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: Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the one who waits.

You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears,  
For the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. (*refrain*)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forbears heard  
is the promise that holds us bound,  
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. (*refrain*)

Rock of Ages

Thomas Hastings

Augustus Toplady

♩=72

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system (measures 1-5) begins with the lyrics 'Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;'. The second system (measures 6-10) continues with 'Not the la - bor of my hands Can ful - fill Thy law's de - mands;'. The third system (measures 11-15) includes 'Noth - ing in my hand I bring, Simp - ly to Thy cross I cling;'. The fourth system (measures 16-20) concludes with 'While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death, Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy ri - ven side which flowed, Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow, Nak - ed, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace; When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne, Be of sin the dou - ble cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and power. All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone. Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sa - vior, or I die. Rock of Ag - es, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.'

let me hide, let me hide, let me hide my-self in Thee.

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**Scripture** Galatians 4:21-31 (found on Page 15)  
**Series** Galatians Series—New Life—New Freedom  
**Sermon** Child of Promise

### *Profession of Faith*

L Now, as you publicly declare your faith, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which you were baptized.

A *The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:*

*That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we, free from sin, might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.*

*~ from 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24, NRSV*

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## CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. When we gather to praise God, we remember that we are people who have preferred our wills to his. May we accept his power to become new persons in Christ, let us contemplate, so that we may confess our sin before God and one another.

### *Lamb of God (Grant us Your Peace)*

Welcome Wagon

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world. Grant us your peace, grant us your  
peace, Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

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## Confession & Renewal

- A *Righteous God, in Christ you became sin for us.  
You took what we are so that we might become what you are.  
But we confess that often we ignore our sin.  
We confess that too often we do not confess.  
We keep silent about the sin that clings to us.  
But our sins are too great a burden for us.  
Forgive us. In Christ take away our iniquity.  
You are our stronghold, our hiding place.  
May we confess our sins, that we might then rejoice  
and be glad in you and in the righteousness  
that flows over us as a mighty stream of grace. In Christ, Amen.*

## Silent and Personal Confession

### WORDS OF RENEWAL

- L *The Lord God said: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes." Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed! – based on Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 1:20*
- A *Thanks be to God!*

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## Doxology

- L *Mighty God and Father, you overwhelm us with your great mercy. At the time of our greatest need you surprised us with your wondrous love. As you draw us into this renewing relationship of love, may we respond with gratitude.*

*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 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.*