
A Glance at the Week

Monday

6:30 pm Small Group

Wednesday

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)

Session (session@randolphheights.org)

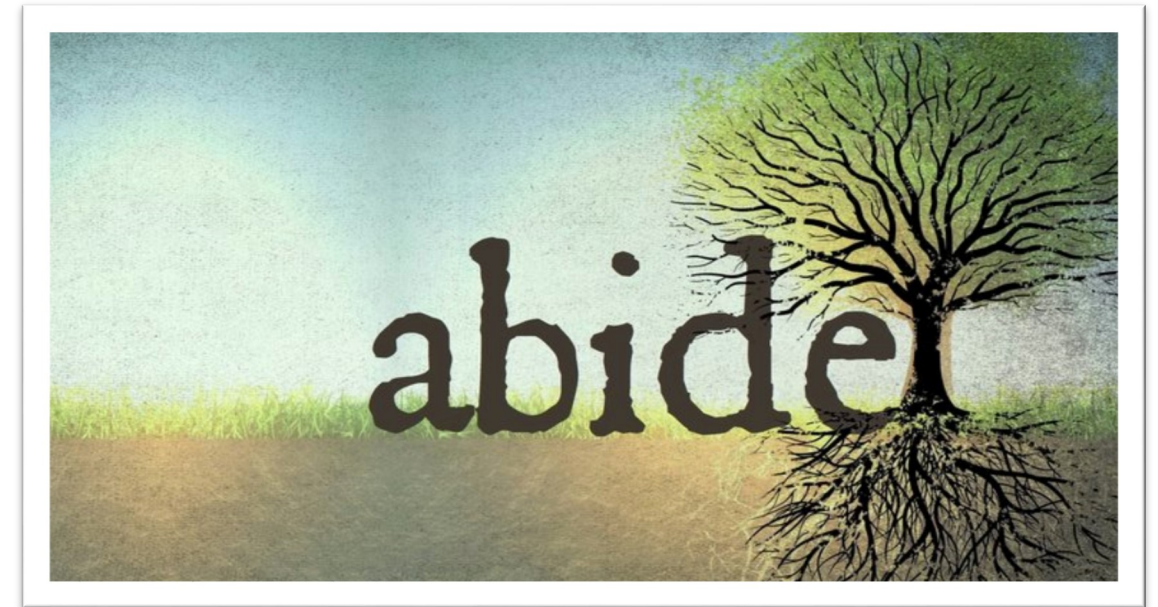
For Pastoral Communication, please call Pastor Ken @ 651-592-3320

Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

Looking Ahead

Gospel of John

01/01/23 - Growth in Grace	John	15:1-11
01/08/23 - The Vine	John	15:1-8
01/15/23 - Friends	John	15:9-17
01/22/23 - The World Hates You	John	15:16-16:1
01/29/23 - (<i>Annual Meeting After Service</i>)		



Saint Paul, MN

**Randolph Heights
Presbyterian Church**

435 Hamline Ave. South

January 1, 2023

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: John 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

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 Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. – *Romans 15:12-13, NRSV*

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

When I am in the cellar of affliction, I look for the Lord's choicest wines.
~ *Samuel Rutherford (c.1600-1661), Scottish pastor and theologian*

The danger is that we may fail to perceive life's greatest meaning, fall short of its highest good, miss its deepest and most abiding happiness, be unable to render the most needed service, be unconscious of life ablaze with the light of the Presence of God - and be content to have it so - that is the danger. That someday we may wake up and find that always we have been busy with the husks and trappings of life - and have really missed life itself.
~ *Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, Pastor*

Underneath human anxiety is the reversal of identity in which the finite attempts to be infinite. ~ *Jackie Hill Perry, poet, author and hip hop artist*

Let's be honest – pruning is cutting and cutting hurts.
~ *Bruce H. Wilkinson, Secrets of the Vine: Breaking Through to Abundance*

All these things He must be in me, abiding, living, speaking in me; that I may be the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. v. 21); not in love, nor in gifts and graces which follow; but in Him. ~ *Martin Luther*

The greatest misery of all is for God to give you up to your heart's lusts and desires, to give you up to your own counsels (*Ps. 81:11-12*). [When visited by various trials and difficulties] think thus: 'Lord, you have laid an afflicted condition upon me, but, Lord, you have not given me the plague of a hard heart.'
~ *Jeremiah Burroughs (1599-1646), The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*

PRELUDE

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

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)

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!*

L Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy. He has not turned his back on them, but has listened to their cries for help.

A *I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.*

L All who seek the Lord will praise him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy. The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

A *For royal power belongs to the Lord. He rules all the nations. Bow before him, all who are mortal, all whose lives will end as dust.*

Pastoral Prayer

L Eternal God,
Whatever the significance of this new year, this morning is the same as the dawning of every day since you first created life and light and proclaimed it all “very good.” We acknowledge your lordship over the world you have made and over the creatures you have placed in it.

You have filled us with the light of your Word, made flesh in Jesus Christ. Let the light of faith shine in all we do, that the one who is from everlasting to everlasting— yet who was born among us and lived with us— may continue to inspire the thoughts of our hearts and the actions of our lives.

As you have led us in days past, so guide us now and always, that our hearts may learn to choose your will and our new resolves be strengthened. Help us to know that you are a personal God, concerned not just with the mighty forces of wind and weather and of the destiny and fate of nations but also with the joys and sorrows that characterize our lives.

Bless also those known to us who need to sense your healing presence today:

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 Eternal God, as we conclude our service, guide our feet. As our steps take us into an unknown future, give us confidence in your faithfulness. Help us see opportunities to serve and to love. Support us with your love so that we can work with you and rest in you. Amen.

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

Invitation to the Table

L Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

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 *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

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

L Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; we praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and for ever. 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*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

John Francis Wade



O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; O
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py morn-ing;



6
come ye, O come ye, to Beth-le-hem. Come and be-hold Him,
sing, all ye citi-zens of heav'n a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all
Je-sus, to Thee be all glo-ry giv'n; Word of the Fa-ther,



12
born the King of an-gels;
glo-ry in the high-est; O come, let us a-dore Him, O
now in flesh ap-pear-ing.

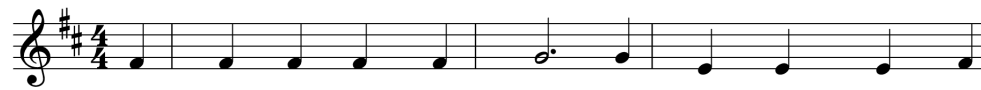


16
come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ the Lord.

Make Me a Captive, Lord

Leominster

George Matheson



Make me a ca-p-tive, Lord, and then I shall be
My heart is weak and poor un-till its mas-ter
My pow'r is faint and low Till I have learned to
My will is not my own till thou hast made it



free; force me to ren-der up my sword, and
find; it has no spring of ac-tion sure, it
serve; It lacks the need-ed fire to glow, It
thine; if it would reach a mon-arch's throne, it



I shall con-queror be. I sink in life's a-larms when
var-ies with the wind. It can-not free-ly move till
lacks the breeze to nerve. It can-not drive the world Un-
must its crown re-sign; it on-ly stands un-bent a-



by my-self I stand; im-pris-on me with-
thou hast wrought its chain; en-slave it with thy
-til it-self be driv'n; Its flag can on-ly
-mid the clash-ing strife, when on thy bo-som



- in thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.
match-less love, and death-less it shall reign.
be un-furled When thou shalt breathe from heav'n.
it has leant, and found in thee its life.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture John 15:1-11 (found on Page 15)

Series Gospel of John

Sermon Spiritual Growth

Profession of Faith

A *We believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
We believe that God's love is powerful beyond measure.
God not only preserves the world, God continually attends to it.
God commands us to care for the earth in ways
that reflect God's loving care for us.
We are responsible for ensuring that the earth's gifts
are used fairly and wisely,
that no creature suffers from the abuse of what we are given,
and that future generations may continue to enjoy
the abundance and goodness of the earth in praise to God.
Entrusting ourselves wholly to God's care,
we receive the grace to be patient in adversity,
thankful in the midst of blessing,
courageous when facing injustice,
and confident that no evil may afflict us
that God will not turn to our good.*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L Jesus said: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." As God has instructed us in these great commandments, and because we have not lived in full obedience, let us now confess our sins to God, trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord. – based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

A *God of Grace and Mercy,
We confess that our hearts are prone to wander from you. We do not tremble in the awe at the wonder of your majesty. Our eyes covet and our minds continue to focus on ourselves rather than our neighbor. Forgive us.*

*Jesus,
You always revered your father, and delighted to obey his will. Thank-you for your great obedience and faithfulness, when ours is weak and small. Help us to see clearly the work you accomplished and the peace you have made between us and the Father.*

*Holy Spirit,
Transform our hearts and renew our minds. Help us to obey out of joyful reverence for our God who has loved us so much. Teach us to see God's word as a perfect guide for our steps. And may we revel in the freedom that is ours in Christ. Have your way with us according to your good pleasure, in Christ's name we pray,
Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

Words of Renewal


L I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
– Ezekiel 36:25-26, NRSV

A *Thanks be to God!*

On This Day

Personent Hodie

Piae Cantiones, 1582



On this day earth shall ring with the song let us sing;
On this day we shall sing; with our song earth shall ring,
5
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
9 prai-sing Christ, hea-ven's King, born on earth to save us;
Him the Fa-ther gave us.
16 peace and love he gave us. Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, glo-ry to the
Son, Glo-ry to the Ho-ly Ghost, to the three in one.

Doxology

L Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.
– Psalm 50:14, NRSV

*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 *God of hope,
you gave your Son to free a lost world.
You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage.
You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears.
You promise us a future with you.
In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes.
May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see
the goodness of knowing you.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.*

L God of love and power, you are revealed to us in your Word, in accounts of prophecy and fulfillment that direct our attention to Jesus Christ. Illuminate us now as we hear your Word proclaimed, that we may open our hearts to him, yearn for his coming in glory, and serve him with joy. Amen.