
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

Advent Series-- John Series Coming Soon!

| | | |
|--|---------|------------|
| 12/04/22 - Mary's Song | Luke | 1:46-55 |
| 12/11/22 - Christmas Wisdom | Luke | 2:8-14 |
| 12/18/22 - High & Lofty One | Matthew | 1:20-23 |
| 12/25/22 - What's in a Name | Matthew | 2:1-8 |
| 01/01/23 - Growth in Grace | John | 15:1-11 |
| 01/08/23 - Vinedresser | John | 15:1-5 |
| 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

December 11, 2022

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 Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

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

The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.

~ *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945, Pastor-Theologian*

Happy are those whose self-centered lives have been crushed and reshaped by the Master's hand to be full of mercy. ~ *John Hagee, 1940- , Pastor*

I want God, not my idea of God. I want my neighbor, not my idea of my neighbor. I want my spouse, not my idea of my spouse. I want my self, not my idea of my self.

~ *C.S. Lewis, Author/Professor*

If we live in a denial of the realities of our need and we persist in this, we run the risk of existing in this forever. We will move towards something that's like an asylum. Those in hell are diminished by the fact that they have denied the reality of themselves and the grace of God as well.

~ *Dr. Jerry Root, Professor Emeritus, Wheaton College*

If the only thing human beings needed were a little external tweaking of their life circumstances, then the coming of Jesus to earth wouldn't make any sense. But if the greatest danger to all of us lives inside us and not outside us, then the radical intervention of the incarnation of Jesus is our only hope.

~ *Paul Tripp, author and speaker*

PRELUDE

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

All Sing: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Call to Worship *(from Psalm 97)*

L The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice! Let the farthest coastlands be glad.
Dark clouds surround him. Righteousness and justice are the foundation
of his throne.

A *Fire spreads ahead of him and burns up all his foes. His lightning flashes out
across the world.*

L The earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
every nation sees his glory.

A *Jerusalem has heard and rejoiced, and all the towns of Judah are glad because of
your justice, O Lord!*

L For you, O Lord, are supreme over all the earth; you are exalted far
above all gods. You who love the Lord, hate evil! He protects the lives of
his godly people and rescues them from the power of the wicked.

A *Light shines on the godly, and joy on those whose hearts are right. May all who
are godly rejoice in the Lord and praise his holy name!*

Pastoral Prayer

L Root of Jesse, as you rise as a sign for all the peoples, and call forth the
worship of all the nations, come quickly to deliver us from sin and death.
Key of David, scepter over the house of Israel, your covenant people,
open our hearts, our lives, our futures. Set free all who are imprisoned, all
those who live in the valley of the shadow of death. Ruler of all nations,
Lord of all time and space, you hold humanity together. As you lovingly
formed us from the dust of the earth, lovingly reform, save, and renew
us. Immanuel, our Lord, our hope and desire, come mightily to save us;
our trust is in you. We rejoice in your faithfulness. Our hearts overflow
with hope as we express our longing for the advent of our Lord. Prepare
us to receive, honor, and follow him, our Messiah, the King of kings and
Lord of lords. 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 Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit, to loose the chains
that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your
service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your
saints in the joy of your eternal realm. In Christ and in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God. 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

Advent Candle Lighting

L We relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath. The candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE. Now we light the third candle of Advent. This is the candle of JOY. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth. From the Book of Isaiah we read the words of our Lord:

A *"But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight." – Isaiah 65:18*

L From the words of Paul to the people of the church at Galatia:

A *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." – Galatians 5:22-25*

L. Let us join together with these words:

A *We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.*

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Wesley / Mark E. Hunt vs 2



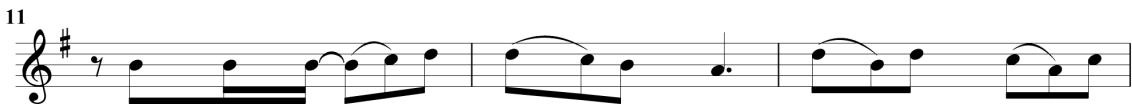
Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, He whose glo - ries
Born Thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, Born a child and



peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our
knew no end; By His life He brings us glad - ness, Our Re - deem - er,
yet a King, Born to reign in us for - e - ver, Now Thy gra - cious



rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
Shep - herd, Friend. Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber,
king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit



Hope of all the earth Thou art, Dear De - sire of
Born with - in a cat - tle stall; This the ev - er -
Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf -



e - 'vry na - tion, Joy of e - 'vry long - ing heart.
- last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
- fi - cient me - rit, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Trad. Carol

James Chadwick



An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains And the moun - tains in re - ply
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings be
an - gels sing, Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee,



E - cho - ing their joy - ous strains Glo -
Which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



- o - o - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o De - o

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Luke 2:8-14 (found on Page 15)

Series Advent

Sermon Christmas Wisdom

Profession of Faith

A *In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem to become one with us.
In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea
to teach us how to live.
In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary to bear away our sin.
In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden to defeat death's power over us.
In love you ascended beyond the clouds to be our reigning Lord.
You came to love us so that we need never feel unloved,
deserted, alone, condemned*

*Our only hope is Jesus Christ.
After we refused to live in the image of God,
he was born of the virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and our instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our language,
fulfilling the law of God.*

*Being united to Christ's humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in him.
Come, Lord Jesus: We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L *In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!
— Isaiah 30:15, 18, NIV*

CONFESSION

A *Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

Sing We Now of Christmas

Trad. French Carol



Sing we now of Christ-mas, No - el, sing we here!
An An - gel called to shep - herds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
In Beth-le - hem they found him; Jo - seph and Mar - y mild,



Hear our grate-ful prais - es to the babe so dear. Sing we No-
journ-ey forth to Beth le-hem, find the lamb-kin blest."
seat - ed by the man - ger, watch-ing the ho - ly child.



- el, the King is born, No-el! Sing we now of Christ-mas, sing we now No-el!

Words of Renewal

L The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.

— based on Jeremiah 33:14-16, NRSV

A Thanks be to God!

Doxology

L What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can, I give him, give him my heart.

*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.*