
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 - What's in a Name	Matthew	1:20-23
12/25/22 - High & Lofty One	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>)		

Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

December 18, 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: Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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

I do not at all understand the mystery of grace – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us. ~Anne Lamott (1954-present)

The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays. ~ Soren Kierkegaard, Danish Philosopher

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. ~ Corrie ten Boom

"Are you not thirsty?" said the Lion. "I am dying of thirst," said Jill. "Then drink," said the Lion. "May I – could I – would you mind going away while I do?" said Jill.

The Lion answered this only by a look and a very low growl. And as Jill gazed at its motionless bulk, she realized that she might as well have asked the whole mountain to move aside for her convenience. The delicious rippling noise of the stream was driving her nearly frantic.

"Will you promise not to – do anything to me, if I do come?" said Jill. "I make no promise," said the Lion.

Jill was so thirsty now that, without noticing it, she had come a step nearer. "Do you eat girls?" she said.

"I have swallowed up girls and boys, women and men, kings and emperors, cities and realms," said the Lion. It didn't say this as if it were boasting, nor as if it were sorry, nor as if it were angry. It just said it.

*"I daren't come and drink," said Jill. "Then you will die of thirst," said the Lion. "Oh dear!" said Jill, coming another step nearer. "I suppose I must go and look for another stream then." "There is no other stream," said the Lion. ~ C.S. Lewis, *The Silver Chair**

It is only when we are suspended in mid-air with no landing in sight, that we force our wings to unravel and alas begin our flight. And as we fly, we still may not know where we are going. But the miracle is in the unfolding of the wings. You may not know where you're going, but you know that so long as you spread your wings, the winds will carry you. ~ C. JoyBell C., Author/Thinker

PRELUDE

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

All Sing: Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

For what we've left undone, For fear that leaves us numb,
For all we can't outrun, That we need rescue from.

If death is overcome And new life is begun,
The world will be undone. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Call to Worship *(from Psalm 146)*

L Don't put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. When they breathe their last, they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them. But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

A *He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever.*

L He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The Lord frees the prisoners. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down.

A *The Lord loves the godly. The Lord protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.*

L The Lord will reign forever.

A *He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations.*

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 life-giving 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 Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath – the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. In the Book of Deuteronomy, we find these words:

A *"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." – Deuteronomy 10:17-19a*

L From the Gospel of John we hear:

A *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." – John 13:34-35*

L Let us pray together:

A *Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. 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*

Good Christian's All Rejoice

tr. John Mason Neale

Medieval Latin Carol



Good Christ-ian's all, re - joi - ce With heart and soul and
 Good Christ-ian's all, re - joi - ce With heart and soul and
 Good Christ-ian's all, re - joi - ce With heart and soul and



voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 voice; Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore Him bow; And He is in the
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, And man is blessed for -
 Calls you one and calls you all To gain His ev - er -



man - ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 - ev - er - more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 - last - ing hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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;



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,



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.



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

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25 (found on Page 15)

Series Advent

Sermon What's in a Name?

Profession of Faith

L Lord God, you choose the very least and raise them up to greatness

A *For nothing is impossible with God*

L You take the weak, the poor and blind and raise them out of darkness

A *For nothing is impossible with God*

L Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

A *His love endures forever.*

L Give thanks to the God of gods.

A *His love endures forever.*

L Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

A *His love endures forever.*

L Teach us obedience, Lord in every part of our lives. Give us ears to hear your word, hands to do your work, feet to walk your path, A heart for all your people, a mouth to shout your praise, a childlike faith with Humility, and Confidence That says:

A *To the possible, to the impossible, I am the Lord's servant, May I do as the Lord commands. Amen*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

– based on Romans 8:39

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

Words of Renewal

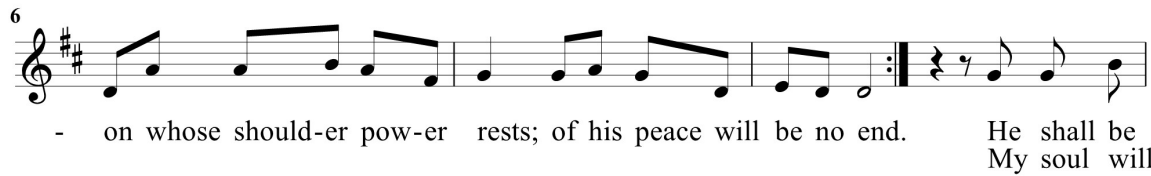
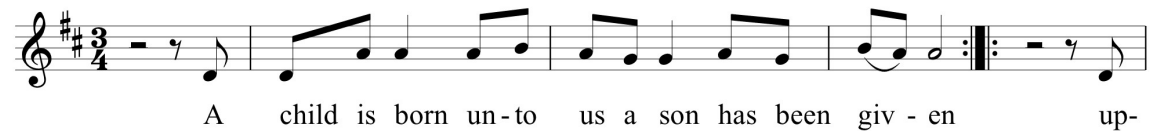
L Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.

A *Thanks be to God!*

Puer Natus Est - A Child is Born

Daniel Justice Snoke

♩=110



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.*

- 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. Illumine 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.