
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)

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

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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 8, 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 15:1-8

"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.

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

A machine can do work; only life can bear fruit. A law can compel work; only love can spontaneously bring forth fruit. Work implies effort and labor; the essential idea of fruit is that it is the silent, natural, restful produce of our inner life.
~ Andrew Murray, *The True Vine*

God's actions are all intended to nudge you – lovingly, wisely, persistently – toward the life and character you desire but can't reach without help.
– Bruce H. Wilkinson, *Secrets of the Vine: Breaking Through to Abundance*

Here's the marvelous news. When you look up away from yourself and you look up to God, you see a God who is able...you see a God who has capacity and competence and power. You see a God who himself is not weak. And he will use that ability...in your life.
~Thabiti Anyabwile, Washington, D.C.-based pastor and author

The contemporary climate is therapeutic.... People today hunger... for the feeling, the momentary illusion, of personal well-being, health, and psychic security.
~ Christopher Lasch (1932-1994), American historian and social critic

THERE ARE two ways to drink tea. Some people are dippers. They dip their tea bag up and down in the mug. A lot of Christians are like that. They dip in on Sunday morning then dip back out. They dip back in on Wednesday night then they dip back out. But there's another way to drink tea and that's to be an abider. It involves the act of just dropping the tea bag in the water and letting it stay there. Without touching the bag an amazing thing will happen. The color of the water begins to change as the influence of the bag in the hot water effects change in the cup. A person can just sit and watch the transformation take place because of the act of abiding.
~ Tony Evans, Pastor

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 80)*

L Please listen, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph's descendants
like a flock.

A O God, enthroned above the cherubim, display your radiant glory! Show us
your mighty power.

L Come to rescue us! Turn us again to yourself, O God. Make your face
shine down upon us. Only then will we be saved.

A You brought us from Egypt like a grapevine; you drove away the pagan nations
and transplanted us into your land. You cleared the ground for us, and we took
root and filled the land.

L Take care of this grapevine that you yourself have planted, this son you
have raised for yourself.

A Strengthen the one you love, then we will never abandon you again. Revive us
so we can call on your name once more.

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*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1. A might-y for - tress is our God, A bul-wark nev - er
 2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be
 3. And tho' this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat-en to un-
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, No thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; Our help - er He, a - mid the flood Of
 los - ing; Were not the right Man on our side, The
 do us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His
 bid - eth; The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Thro'



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: For still our an - cient foe
 Man of God's own choos - ing: Dost ask who that may be?
 truth to tri - umph thro' us: The Prince of Dark-ness grim,
 Him who with us sid - eth: Let goods and kin - dred go,



Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are great, And,
 Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sab - a - oth, His name, From
 We trem-ble not for him; His rage we can en - dure, For
 This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may kill: God's



armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not His e - qual.
 age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 lo, his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Before the Throne of God Above

Arr Vicki Cook

Charitie Lees Bancroft



Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
 When Sa - tan tempts me to des-pair And tells me of the guilt with-
 Be - hold Him there, the ri - sen Lamb My per - fect, spot - less Right-eous-



5
 plea A great High Priest whose name is love Who ev - er lives and pleads for
 - in Up-ward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my
 - ness The great un - change-a - ble I AM The King of glo - ry and of



9
 me My name is gra - ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His
 sin Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died My sin - ful soul is count - ed
 grace One with Him - self, I can - not die My soul is pur - chased with His



13
 heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can
 free For God the Just is sat - is - fied To look on
 blood My life is hid with Christ on high With Christ my



16
 bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part
 Him and par - don me To look on Him and par - don me
 Sav - ior and my God With Christ my Sav - ior and my God

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture John 15:1-8 (found on Page 15)

Series Gospel of John

Sermon Abiding

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,
and those in it.
We entrust 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 The psalmist testifies: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me. In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

— based on Psalm 66:16, 18-20, 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 Hear the good news! There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that in Jesus, God embraces you, forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life.

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,

To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
prai-sing Christ, hea-ven's King, born on earth to save us;

Him the Fa-ther gave us.
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.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words appearing above notes in the first two staves. The piece ends with a double bar line on the fourth staff.

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. 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.