
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)

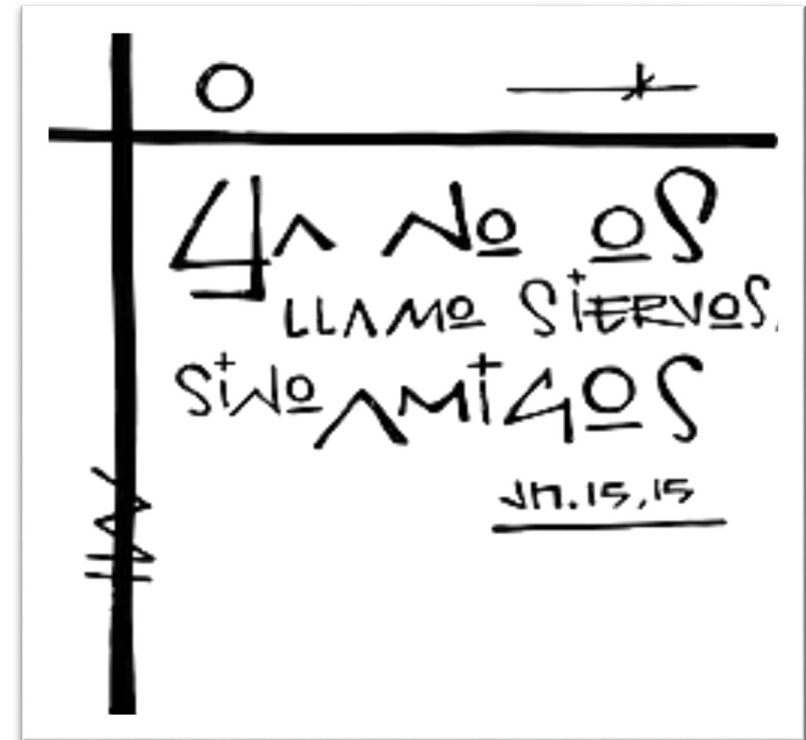
For Pastoral Communication, please call Pastor Ken @ 651-592-3320

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 15, 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 15:9-17

“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. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

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've got a new friend, all right. But what a gamble friendship is! Charlotte is fierce, brutal, scheming, bloodthirsty – everything I don't like. How can I learn to like her, even though she is pretty and, of course, clever?
~ *E.B. White, Charlotte's Web*

The man of knowledge must be able not only to love his enemies but also to hate his friends. ~ *Friedrich Nietzsche, Philosopher*

You want people to hold you to a high standard, because whenever you degenerate in the multiple ways you're likely to, they will (metaphorically) whack you on the back of the head and say, 'clue-up'! You are demeaning yourself and you're less than what you could be ... A true friend wants the best, for the best in you.
~ *Jordan Peterson, Psychologist, Author, Speaker*

The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for. ~ *Bob Marley (1945-1981), Jamaican musician*

In friendship...we think we have chosen our peers. In reality a few years' difference in the dates of our births, a few more miles between certain houses, the choice of one university instead of another...the accident of a topic being raised or not raised at a first meeting--any of these chances might have kept us apart. But, for a Christian, there are, strictly speaking no chances. A secret master of ceremonies has been at work. Christ, who said to the disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you," can truly say to every group of Christian friends, "Ye have not chosen one another but I have chosen you for one another." The friendship is not a reward for our discriminating and good taste in finding one another out. It is the instrument by which God reveals to each of us the beauties of others."
~ *C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves*

PRELUDE

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



O sing to the Lord, and sing God a new song. O sing to the
By His ho-ly pow'r our God has done won-ders. By His ho-ly
O shout to our God, who gave us the Spi - rit, O shout to our

7
Lord, and sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, and
pow'r our God has done won-ders. By His ho-ly pow'r our
God, who gave us the Spi - rit, O shout to our God, who

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sing God a new song. O sing to our God, Yes! sing to our God.
God has done won-ders. Oh sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
gave us the Spi - rit, O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

Call to Worship (from Psalm 98)

- L Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has done wonderful deeds. His right hand has won a mighty victory; his holy arm has shown his saving power!
- A *The Lord has announced his victory and revealed his righteousness to every nation!*
- L He has remembered his promise to love and be faithful to Israel. The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy!
- A *Make a joyful noise before the Lord! Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!*
- L Let the earth and all living things join in. Let the rivers clap their hands in glee! Let the hills sing out their songs of joy before the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.
- A *He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with fairness.*

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*

All Sing: All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the Redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All Sing: Blessed Assurance

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His spirit, washed in his Blood

This is my story
This is my song
Praising my Savior
All the day long
This is my story
This is my song
Praising my Savior
All the day long

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my savior am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His Love

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture John 15:9-17 (found on Page 15)

Series Gospel of John

Sermon You are My Friend

Profession of Faith

A *We believe,
You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created and have their being.
Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!
To him who sits on the throne
and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever! Amen.*

– Revelation 4:11; 5:12-13, NIV

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. We express our longing for God's leading by our own transparent confession.

– based on Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

A *Lord, you said that if we love you, we will obey what you command.
Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.
Lord, you said that we may ask for anything in your name.
Forgive us when we think we need to solve our own problems.
Lord, you said not to let our hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety.
Lord, you said that if we remain in you and you in us, we will bear much fruit.
Forgive us our barren lives, Lord.
Lord, you said that we must testify, for you have been with us.
We confess, Lord, that we have too often been silent.
Lord, you said to love each other as I have loved you.
In this and in so many other ways, we confess our failures and shortcomings.
Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

L But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

– Psalm 103:6-18, NRSV

A *Thanks be to God!*

Words of Renewal

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Fredrick Wm. Faber



There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the
For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of the



5 sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-
mind, and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der - ful-ly



9 - ty. There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the
kind. If our love were but more sim - ple, we should rest up - on God's



13 good. There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his
word, and our lives would be ill - u - mined by the pre - sence of our



17 blood. There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior, there is heal - ing in his blood.
Lord. and our lives would be ill - u - mined by the pre - sence of our Lord.

Doxology

- L He who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. Because of this, you will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.

*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 Lord God, help us to know your ways; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

— based on Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV