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## 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](mailto:secretary@randolphheights.org))

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## Looking Ahead

### Summer in Psalms

06/04/23 - A Meditation	Psalm 1
06/11/23 - Deeply Emotional Prayer	Psalm 3
06/18/23 - Finding our Identity	Psalm 8
06/25/23 - Taking Refuge	Psalm 11
07/02/23 - Finding Certainty	Psalm 14
07/09/23 - Anxiety	Psalm 27
07/16/23 - Beauty of God	Psalm 27
07/23/23 - Confession	Psalm 32
07/30/23 - Finding God	Psalms 42/43

## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN  
55105

**July 16, 2023**

9:30am Discussion

10:30am Worship

[www.randolphheights.org](http://www.randolphheights.org)

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## 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.*

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## Scripture Reading: Psalm 27 (NLT)

A psalm of David.

The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid?

The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger,  
so why should I tremble?

When evil people come to devour me,

when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid.

Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident.

The one thing I ask of the LORD— the thing I seek most—

is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in his Temple.

For he will conceal me there when troubles come;

he will hide me in his sanctuary.

He will place me out of reach on a high rock.

Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me.

At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy,

singing and praising the LORD with music.

Hear me as I pray, O LORD. Be merciful and answer me!

My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."

And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming."

Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger.

You have always been my helper.

Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation!

Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close.

Teach me how to live, O LORD.

Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me.

Do not let me fall into their hands.

For they accuse me of things I've never done;

with every breath they threaten me with violence.

Yet I am confident I will see the LORD's goodness

while I am here in the land of the living.

Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous.

Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God!

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## BENEDICTION

*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 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. – *1 Timothy 1:17, NIV*

Go forth in the name of the Lord. This is God's charge: We should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. – *based on 1 John 3:23, 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.

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## Reflections

It has made me better loving you... it has made me wiser, and easier, and brighter. I used to want a great many things before, and to be angry that I did not have them. Theoretically, I was satisfied. I flattered myself that I had limited my wants. But I was subject to irritation; I used to have morbid sterile hateful fits of hunger, of desire. Now I really am satisfied because I can't think of anything better. It's just as when one has been trying to spell out a book in the twilight, and suddenly the lamp comes on. I had been putting out my eyes over the book of life, and finding nothing to reward me for my pains; but now that I can read it properly I see that it's a delightful story. ~ *Henry James, 1843-1916, Novelist*

The biggest human temptation is to settle for too little. ~ *Thomas Merton (1915-1968)*

For what is idolatry if not this: to worship the gifts in place of the Giver himself?  
~ *John Calvin, 1509-1563, French-Swiss theologian and reformer*

I can safely say ... that any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven. ~ *A.W. Tozer (1897-1963), pastor and writer*

God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.

~ *Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), New England author, theologian and pastor*

As long as a woman can look ten years younger than her daughter, she is perfectly satisfied.  
~ *Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Beauty awakens the soul to act. ~ *Dante Alighieri, 1265-1321, Italian Poet*

If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.' ~ *Martin Luther King Jr., 1929-1968, Minister*

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## PRELUDE

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

### Opening

- L O God, by your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness
- A *Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ, that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.*

*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)*

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## Pastoral Prayer

- L O Savior God, look upon your church in its struggles. Have mercy on its weaknesses, give strength and courage to love the truth...

Look also upon the ministry of this congregation. Increase its courage, strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness to those in our sphere of influence and beyond, even to the ends of the earth. Have courage to join in Jesus' mission build and strengthen one-another.

Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children here present. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only Savior.

### 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 Gracious God, accept all these prayers offered in Jesus' name, and give us now the strength to wait patiently for your answer, and to live faithfully in response to your call. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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## 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*

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## Worship & Adoration

L Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.  
A *The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.*

L The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.  
A *And his understanding no one can fathom.*

L The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
A *Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.*

L The LORD says: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"  
A *Let us worship the Lord!*

L God of power and wonder, we are awestruck by the glory of your presence. We rejoice at what we can see; we marvel at what we cannot see. You dazzle us with your brightness; you overshadow us as with a great cloud. Loving, protecting, challenging, nurturing, you strengthen and transform us. May we love and serve you in all that we are and do. Glory be to you.

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*

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

Silesian Folk Song

Munster Gesangbuch



Fair - est Lord Je - sus! Ru - ler of all na - ture, O Thou of  
Fair are the mea-dows, fair - er still the wood-lands, Robed in the  
Fair is the sun-shine, Fair - er still the moon-light And all the  
Beau-ti - ful Sa - vior! Lord - of the na - tions! Son of -



God and man the Son! Thee will I che - rish, Thee will I  
bloo - ming garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
twink-ling star-ry host: Je - sus shines bright-er, Je - sus shines  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and ho - nor, praise, ad - or -



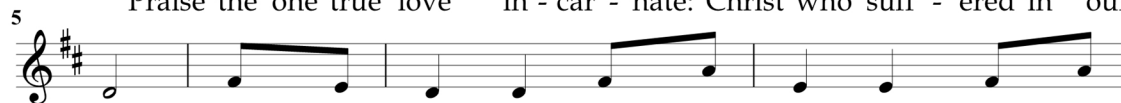
ho - nor, Thou, my soul's Glo-ry, Joy, and Crown!  
pu - rer, Who makes the woe-ful heart to sing.  
pur-er, Than all the an - gels heaven can boast.  
- a - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

Rusty Edwards



Praise the one who breaks the dark-ness With a lib - er - a - ting  
Praise the one who blessed the child-ren With a strong yet gen-tle  
Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ who suff - ered in our



light. Praise the one who frees the pris - oners, Turn - ing  
word. Praise the one who drove out de - mons With a  
place. Je - sus died and rose for man - y That we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the  
pier - ing two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool  
may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



King - dom, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter, To the des - ert's burn - ing sand. From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done. Praise the



storms and feed - ing thou-sands With the ver - y bread of peace.  
well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quen-ching thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
one re - deem-ing glo - ry, Praise the One who makes us one.

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**Scripture** Psalm 27 (*found on Page 15*)  
**Series** Summer in the Psalms  
**Sermon** The Beauty of God

### ***Profession of Faith***

A *While we were still weak,  
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.  
Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person –  
though perhaps for a good person, someone might actually dare to die.  
But God proves his love for us  
in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.  
Much more surely then,  
now that we have been justified by his blood,  
will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.  
For if while we were enemies,  
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,  
much more surely, having been reconciled,  
will we be saved by his life. – Romans 5:6-10, NRSV*

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## 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 *Heavenly Father,  
Many times we have troubled hearts and minds. We worry about relationships, health, finances, family, future, and many other things. We have a hard time believing in you in a way that would bring comfort and confidence to our hearts. We doubt your love and concern for us, and even your very existence. Thank-you for Jesus' fearless faith. He has persevered through far greater trials than anything we will ever suffer.*

*Holy Spirit, help us to believe in Christ. Give us a joy and a peace that should flow from the reality of what Christ has done for us. Help us to live in the light of full forgiveness and in the sufficiency of your mercy and grace. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

### **Silent and Personal Confession**

## Gloria Patri

Karl Digerness, 2009



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to the Son,



Glo-ry be to the Spi-rit, Three in One. As it was in the be-gin-ing it



will be for-ev-er A-men, A-men, A-men.

## Renewal

L Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; behold! new life has begun. Know that in Jesus, God forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life. –based on Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17

A Thanks be to God! – Romans 8:15-17, NRSV

## Doxology

L Freely you have received, freely give. – Matthew 10:8, NIV

A 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.

## Dedication

A Lord, we thank for Your faithfulness.  
Thank you that we can always trust in You.  
You are an abundant God and out of your great kindness  
you have given us so much.

We give you this offering today, and with it we also give ourselves.  
Use this congregation, for your kingdom and your glory.  
Extend and multiply its reach and influence we pray.  
And may we be a great blessing to many. Amen.

## Preparation

L Teach us your way, O Lord, and lead us on a level path. Give us understanding, and we will keep your law and obey it with all our hearts.  
– based on Psalm 27:11, Psalm 119:33-34, NRSV