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

Summer in Psalms

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 - Thirst for God	Psalms 42/43
08/06/23 - In Search of	Psalm 63
08/13/23 - Worship	Psalm 95
08/20/23 - God's Love	Psalm 107
08/27/23 - (Guest)	Psalm
09/03/23 - Rejoicing and Weeping	Psalm 126

Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South Saint Paul, MN 55105

August 06, 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: Psalm 63 (NIV)

A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah. 1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. 2 I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. 3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. 4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. 6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. 7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. 8 I cling to you; your right hand upholds me. 9 Those who want to kill me will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth. 10 They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals. 11 But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God will glory in him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- *A Thanks be to God!*

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

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Peace be to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Amen.

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

Loving a holy God is beyond our moral power. The only kind of God we can love by our sinful nature is an unholy god, an idol made by our own hands. Unless we are born of the Spirit of God, unless God sheds His holy love in our hearts, unless He stoops in His grace to change our hearts, we will not love Him... To love a holy God requires grace, grace strong enough to pierce our hardened hearts and awaken our moribund souls.

~ R. C. Sproul, 1939-2017, Theologian & Educator

If God has at last died in our culture, he has not been buried. For the casually religious, he lingers on like a fond old relative who has been so expertly embalmed that we may prop him up in the far corner of the living room and pretend the old fellow is still with us. ~ *Theodore Roszak,* 1933-2011, *Academic & Novelist*

I am a mystery-more so than a tree or a sunset or even a flash of lightning But, sadly, I am taken for granted by those who use me, as if I were a mere incident and without background. This supercilious attitude relegates me to the level of the commonplace. This is a species of the grievous error in which mankind cannot too long persist without peril. For as, GK Chesterton, observed. "We are perishing for want of wonder, not for want of wonders." ~ Leonard Read, 1898-1983, Author, 'I, Pencil'

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.... The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.

~ C.S. Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms

If two girls walk up to me and one says 'you're cute', I'll say thank you, but I appreciate it much more when the other one says 'you make me laugh so much'.

~ Michael J. Fox, Actor

God is a covenant-making, covenant-remembering, covenant-keeping God!

~ Sinclair Ferguson (1948-present), Scottish author, pastor and professor

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: Step by Step Oh God, You are my God And I will ever praise you (2x)

I will seek You in the morning I will learn to walk in Your ways And step by step You'll lead me And I will follow You all of my days (*Repeat Section*)

I will follow You all of my days And I will follow You all of my days And step by step You'll lead me And I will follow You all of my days

Call to Worship

- L "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
- A What did God do to help us?
- L God chose the people of Israel to make a new beginning. They received God's covenant and prepared the way for Jesus to come as our Savior.
- *A* Let us worship the God of the covenant, the God of heaven and earth.

Pastoral Prayer

L Almighty God, Father of mercies, we give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. 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 Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us, in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Table (Offered 1st Sunday of Month)

Invitation to the Table

- L Professing & baptized members of a church in which Jesus Christ is professed as Lord and Savior: the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him, are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.
- *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.
- L Let us give thanks together:

Prayer of Thanks (from a fourth-century liturgy from the city of Alexandria.)
A It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks, for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of all life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day, and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we glorify your name and lift our voices in joyful praise:

All Sing: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might, Heaven and Earth are filled with Your Glory. (2x) Hosanna! Hosanna! In the highest! (2x)

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

Adoration

- L Almighty and ever present God, you uphold heaven and earth and all creatures. All things come from your generous hand: You send the nourishing rain, the refreshing wind, the warming sun, the blustering snow. You make buds appear, flowers bloom, fruit grow, and harvests mature. Through each day of our lives, whether in sickness or health, prosperity or poverty, joy or sorrow, you are in control. Help us to be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and always confident that nothing could ever separate us from your love. For your unending faithfulness, we thank and praise you. To you be glory, now and forever. ~ *based on Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 27-28*
- *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: Let us love and sing and wonder

Let us love and sing and wonder Let us praise the Savior's name He has hushed the law's loud thunder He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame He has washed us with His blood (3x) He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us Pitied us when enemies Called us by His grace and taught us Gave us ears and gave us eyes He has washed us with His blood (3x) He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation Threatens hard to bear us down For the Lord, our strong salvation, Holds in view the conqueror's crown He, Who washed us with His blood, (3x) Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice Join and point to mercy's store When through grace in Christ our trust is Justice smiles and asks no more He Who washed us with His blood (3x) Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus Of the saints enthroned on high Here they trusted Him before us Now their praises fill the sky Thou hast washed us with Thy blood (3x) Thou art worthy Lamb of God

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

ScripturePsalm 63 (found on Page 15)Series Summer in the PsalmsSermonPraise and Adoration

Profession of Faith

A Loving God, we gather each week to meet you.

We come to listen to you, to seek you, and to worship you.

You are the beginning of all things,

the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.

In you we become; in you we live.

Loving God, you are here and everywhere,

around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.

In you we hope; in you we live.

You are the source of serenity,

giving peace that is beyond our understanding.

In you we are still; in you we live.

Loving God, we live in you; we worship you.

Loving God, you live in us; we worship you. Amen.

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.
- A O Lord, Father most gracious, You are filled with mercy and steadfast love, and we come humbly before you, confessing that we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways, we have rebelled against your wisdom which confounds us, and we have rejected your fatherly guidance and are lost without You.

To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, You are all holy, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love, incline your ear to our troubles. Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you.

Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercy. On the ground of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. And it is in his name that we pray, for he is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace. Amen. (From Daniel 9)

Silent and Personal Confession



Renewal

- L Let us give thanks to God, because of the grace given to us in Jesus Christ! And in every way, may we be enriched in him, in our speech and knowledge, not lacking in any gift. Let us live with anticipation, for the revealing of Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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 you 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 Lord God, may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. – *based on Psalm 119:105, NRSV*