
A Glance at the Week

Monday

6:30 pm Small Group

Tuesday

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 20, 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 107 (NIV) Con't

10 Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness, prisoners suffering in iron chains, because they rebelled against God's commands and despised the plans of the Most High. So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, 16 for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

17 Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. 18 They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

23 Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. 31 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. 41 The one who is wise will heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord.

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.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 107 (NIV)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story — those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, 3 those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

4 Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, 9 for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Reflections

The Bible is shallow enough for a child not to drown, yet deep enough for an elephant to swim. ~ *Augustine of Hippo*

Those who work well in the depths will more easily understand the heights, for indeed in their true nature they are one in the same.

~ *George MacDonald, 1824-1905, The Princess and Curdie*

Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. ~ *Martin Luther King, Jr., 1929-1968*

Shallow believers prefer a shallow God. ~ *Toni Morrison, 1931-2019, Am. Novelist*

Some Christians have taken all the justice, judgment and hatred of sin out of the nature of God and have nothing left but a soft god. Others have taken love and grace out and have nothing left but a god of judgment. Or they have taken away the personality of God and have nothing left but a mathematical god — the god of the scientists. All these are false, inadequate conceptions of God. ~ *A.W. Tozer, 1897-1963, The Dangers of a Shallow Faith*

The question is not, do you have conflicts? The real question is, are you aware of your conflicts? ... Anybody who says they don't have any conflict, is either lying or deluding themselves. ~ *Abhijit Naskar, Author, Mad About Humans: World Maker's Almanac*

People to whom sin is just a matter of words, to them salvation is just words too.
~ *William Faulkner, 1897-1962, American Author, 'As I Lay Dying'*

So for example. We're here at a cancer hospital, and sometimes you want to say: God, what in the world, are you up to? What's wrong with you? And the last line in the hymn is this — "Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee." There's a tendency for us to think there's a darkness in God and we're smart, instead of saying, well, wait a minute, no, He's more light than we can handle. And the darkness is in us. 'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

~ *Tim Keller, On the Hymn 'Immortal, Invisible'*

PRELUDE

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

Opening

- L Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
A *Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name through Christ, our Lord. 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)

Call to Worship

- L Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
A *We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart; we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*
- L We will be glad and exult in you;
A *We will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

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 May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.

– from Psalm 19:14, NIV

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 *(From Tim Keller's Memorial Service 8/15/23)*

- L Almighty and most merciful God, you are the consolation of the sorrowful and the support of the weary. Look down in tender love and pity on your servants, whose joy has been turned to grief, so that while we grieve, we may not sink but resign ourselves into your hands. Teach us and comfort us— remembering all your mercies and promises and love in Jesus Christ— who brings life out of death, and can turn wailing into dancing, and deep grief into deep eternal joy. We ask it in the name of him who taught us to pray, saying:
- 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*

Immortal, Invisible

Welsh Melody

Walter Chalmers Smith

Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, In
 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, Nor
 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, Thine

4
 light in - ac - cess - i - ble hid from our eyes, Most
 want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might; Thy
 an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight; All

6
 bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Al -
 jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove Thy
 praise we would ren - der; O help us to see 'Tis

8
 - might - y, vic - tor - ious, Thy great name we praise.
 clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

11
 God is im - mort - al, the An - cient of
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to

15
 Days; Per - fect in pow - er, and might - y to save.
 see 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

All Sing: And Can it Be

And can it be that I should gain
 An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
 Died He for me, who caused His pain?
 For me, who Him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! Amazing love!
 How can it be that you would die for me? (*Refrain 2x*)

'Tis mystery the Immortal dies!
 Who can explain His strange design?
 In vain the firstborn seraph tries
 To sound the depths of love divine!
 'Tis mercy all! 'Tis mercy all!
 Let earth adore, angels inquire no more. (*Refrain 2x*)

He left His Father's throne above,
 So free, so infinite His grace;
 Emptied Himself of all but love,
 And bled for Adam's helpless race;
 'Tis mercy all, 'Tis mercy all!
 Immense and free, His mercy found out me. (*Refrain 2x*)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
 Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 You came and shown the living way;
 I woke, my dungeon flamed with light;
 My chains fell off, my chains fell off!
 My heart was free, I went and followed Him. (*Refrain 2x*)

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
 Alive in Him, my living Head,
 And clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 and claim my crown, claim it through Christ alone. (*Refrain 2x*)

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Psalm 107:1-31,43 (*found on Page 14-15*)
Series Summer in the Psalms
Sermon Pondering God's Love

Profession of Faith

A *The LORD is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.
He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.
Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.
You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.
Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the LORD
forever.*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L *When we see God's beautiful holiness, we recognize our own lack of holiness. God is light and truth, yet we live among shadows and lies. People of God, let us acknowledge who and whose we are; let us ask our powerful God to illumine us with grace and truth in Jesus, our Lord.*

A *Eternal God, you do not change.
You have revealed yourself to us in your Word.
You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth.
But we confess that we often worship
not your true self but who we wish you to be.
We too often ask you to bless what we do
rather than seeking to do what you bless.
Forgive us for seeking concessions
when we should be seeking guidance.
Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want
instead of shaping us into what you want.
Help us to meet you here, that we might bow
before your unspeakable majesty
and so live for you now and ever, in Christ. Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

All Sing: Blessed be Your Name

Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name

Bridge: Every blessing You pour out, I'll Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord Still I will say

Refrain 2: Blessed be the name of the Lord – Blessed be Your name!
Blessed be the name of the Lord – Blessed be Your glorious name!

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Bridge: You give and take away (2x)
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be Your name *(Bridge)*

Words & Music: Ben & Matt Redman

Renewal

L The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. 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.

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

Doxology

L The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. – *Psalm 24:1, NRSV*

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*
