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

*Session* ([session@randolphheights.org](mailto:session@randolphheights.org))

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

*Or Email @ [ken.highley@randolphheights.org](mailto: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

## September 03, 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 126 (NIV)

A song of ascents.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.  
2 Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
3 The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.  
4 Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
like streams in the Negev.  
Those who sow with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.  
6 Those who go out weeping,  
carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy,  
carrying sheaves with them.

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 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.

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## Reflections

Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak knits up the o-er wrought heart and bids it break. ~ *William Shakespeare, Macbeth*

The reason we don't want to feel is that feeling exposes the tragedy of our world and the darkness of our hearts. ~ *Dan Allender, The Cry of the Soul*

A common but futile strategy for achieving joy is trying to eliminate things that hurt: get rid of pain by numbing the nerve ends, get rid of insecurity by eliminating risks, get rid of disappointment by depersonalizing your relationships. And then try to lighten the boredom of such a life by buying joy in the form of vacations and entertainment. There isn't a hint of that in Psalm 126.

~ *Eugene H. Peterson, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked. And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears. And how else can it be? The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain. Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven? And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the very wood that was hollowed with knives? When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

~ *Kahlil Gibran, 1883-1931, Author of 'The Prophet'*

The absence of tumult, more than its presence, is an enemy of the soul. God meets you in your weakness, not in your strength. He comforts those who mourn, not those who live above desperation. He reveals Himself more often in darkness than in the happy moments of life. ~ *Dan B. Allender, Cry of the Soul*

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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 LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.  
A *Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. – Psalm 8:1-2, NIV*

6  
10  
14

Give ear to my words O Lord Con-sid-er my med-i-ta - tion  
Hark-en un-to the voice of my cry My King and my God For  
un-to Thee will I pray My voice shalt Thou hear In the morn-ing O  
Lord in the morn-ing Will I di-rect my prayer Un-to Thee and will look up

### Call to Worship

- L Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.  
A *Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.*
- L Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name?  
A *For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you. – Revelation 15:3-4, NIV*

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## Pastoral Prayer

- L O Lord and Father of the household of faith, we thank you for the gift of faith worked within us by your Holy Spirit. We thank you for having called us to yourself, for consecrating us to your service, for having set us apart to the sacred ministry of prayer.

We pray for the church this morning in all her breadth and variety, gathered out of every nation, family, people, and tongue, to be a kingdom of priests serving you. Grant to the church genuine humility where there is pride, unity where there is division. Grant to her truth where there is error and wisdom where there is folly, that you might fulfill your purposes for her.

Grant that in our own community and those to whom we have influence, for those who are troubled, those who suffer, and those who are discouraged might find support in time of need especially from your church.

### 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

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## 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*

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## Adoration

- L Glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ. You have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins. You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance. All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love. — based on Ephesians 1:3-18
- 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*

Psalm 126

Isaac Wardell

Our mouths they were filled, filled with laugh-ter Our  
 The na - tions will say, "He has done great things!" The

tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy Re-store us, O Lord  
 na - tions will sing songs of joy Re-store us, O Lord

Re - store us, O Lord Al - though we are weep - ing Lord,  
 Re - store us, O Lord

help us keep sow - ing The seeds of Your King - dom For the day You will

reap them Your sheaves we will car - ry Lord, please do not tar - ry

All those who sow weep - ing will go out with songs of joy

Melt My Soul To Love

Benj Pocta & Brian Murphy

Joseph Swain

Hark! From the cross a gra - cious voice, Sa - lutes my  
 A - mazed, I turn, grown strange - ly bold; This won - drous  
 'Sin - ner', he cried, 'be - hold the head, This thorn - y  
 The pow'r, the sweet - ness of that voice My ston - y

ra - vished ears; Re - joice, thou ran - somed soul, re -  
 thing to see; And there the dy - ing Lord be -  
 wreath en - twine; Look on those wound - ed hands and  
 heart does move; Makes me in Christ my Lord re -

- joice! And dry those fal - ling tears! And dry those  
 - hold, Stretched on the blood - y tree. Stretched on the  
 read Your name in crim - son lines. Your name in  
 - joice And melts my soul to love. And melts my

1.2.3. 4.  
 fal - ling tears!  
 blood - y tree.  
 crim - son lines.  
 soul to love. love. And melts my soul to

love. And melts my soul to love.

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**Scripture** Psalm 126 (*found on Page 15*)  
**Series** Summer in the Psalms  
**Sermon** Melting Hearts

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

A *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.*  
*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,*  
*we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*  
*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,*  
*Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;*  
*have mercy on us.*  
*You are seated at the right hand of the Father;*  
*receive our prayer.*  
*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,*  
*you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,*  
*with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

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## 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 *God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the kingdom of heaven is given to them. But we have been proud in spirit, inflated with pride in our own self-sufficiency. We have forgotten how needy we are.*

*God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. But we have not mourned over our sins, instead we have insulated ourselves from those around us, from their pain, needs, loneliness, and suffering. We have even hardened ourselves so that we are unaware that our own lives cause grief to the Lord.*

*God blesses those who are gentle and lowly, for the whole earth will be their inheritance. But we have valued toughness over gentleness. We have too often chosen to be concerned with ourselves rather than with our brothers and sisters and neighbors. Like the prodigal son, we want to satisfy ourselves rather than our Father.*

*Lord, please show us your mercy.*  
*Lord, have mercy upon us in the name of the Father,*  
*Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### **Silent and Personal Confession**

## Calmer of My Troubled Heart

Charles Wesley

Mathew Smith

Calm-er of my troub-led heart Bid my un - be-lief de - part  
Com - fort me when - e'er I mourn With the hope of Thy re - turn

5  
Speak and all my sor-rows cease Speak and all my soul is peace Hal-le-  
And till I Thy glo-ries see Help - me be - lieve in Thee

9  
- lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal - le-lu - jah

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second staff begins with a measure rest marked '5' and contains the next two lines of lyrics. The third staff begins with a measure rest marked '9' and contains the final line of lyrics. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and a fermata over the final note of the first line.

## Renewal

L I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

— Ezekiel 36:25-26, NRSV

A *Thanks be to God!*

## Doxology

L Give to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Let each of us use whatever gift we have received, faithfully sharing God's grace in many forms.

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