
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)

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

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Looking Ahead

Hard Sayings of Jesus

Upcoming Sermons

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| I Came to Set the Earth on Fire | Luke 12:49-53 |
| Let the Dead Bury their Dead | Luke 9:57-62 |
| Let Your Yes Be Yes | Matthew 5:33-37 |
| Love Your Enemies | Luke 6:20-36 |
| Unabashed Prayer | Luke 11:5-13 |
| Lead us not into Temptation | Luke 11:2-4 |
| Judge Not | Matthew 7:1-6 |
| How to Hate Your Parents | Luke 14:25-27 |

Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN
55105

September 17, 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: Luke 12:49-53

Not Peace but Division

49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!

51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

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

Jesus is a divider. He is oil to the world's vinegar. ~ *Julie Hildebrand, blogger*

We can only know God well when we know our own sin. And those who have known God without knowing their wretchedness have not glorified Him but have only glorified themselves. ~ *Blaise Pascal, 1623-1662, French mathematician*

All people know the same truth. Our lives consist of how we choose to distort it. You expect the world to adjust... to the distortion you've become.
~ *From the film "Deconstructing Harry" (Woody Allen)*

[People today] don't think, believe or reckon. They 'feel like.' Listen for this phrase and you'll hear it everywhere. For decades, Americans have been in the process of abandoning both the moral strictures of religion and the Enlightenment quest for universal truth in favor of obsessing over their own internal states and well-being.... This quest to understand and cope with our own feelings and desires — the current term of art is 'selfcare' — can lead to what the writer Christopher Lasch called 'pseudo-self-awareness.' It can leave us too preoccupied with personal satisfaction to see the world clearly. 'The new narcissist is haunted not by guilt but by anxiety.'
~ *Molly Worthen, UNC Professor, NYT article, "Stop Saying 'I Feel Like'"*

How patient should God be? The day of reckoning must come, not because God is too eager to pull the trigger, but because every day of patience in a world of violence means more violence and every postponement of vindication means letting insult accompany injury. "How long will it be before you judge and avenge our blood?" cry out the souls under the altar to the Sovereign Lord (Rev. 6:10). We are uncomfortable with the response which calls on the souls "to rest a little longer until the number should be complete both of their fellow servants and of their brothers and sisters, who were soon to be killed as they themselves had been killed!" (v.11) But the response underlines that God's patience is costly, not simply for God, but for the innocent. Wanting for the evildoers to reform means letting suffering continue....

Miroslav Volf, Professor of Theology, Yale Divinity

PRELUDE

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

Opening

- L This is the day that you have made, Lord.
A *Help us to rejoice in it and be glad!*
L Open our eyes to see you, Lord.
A *Open our ears to hear your Word.*

All Sing: Come, Now is the Time to Worship
Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time, to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God... Come

One day every tongue will confess you are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now

Call to Worship *(from Ps 82)*

- L God presides over heaven's court; he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings:
A *How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked?*
- L Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute.
A *Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people.*
- L These oppressors know nothing; they are so ignorant!
A *Rise up, O God, and judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you.*

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 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

- L O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised forever and ever! Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength. ~ 1 Chronicles 29: 10-12
- 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: Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn *refrain*

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around
refrain

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

Waly Waly

Charles W. Everest



Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, If
Take up your cross, be not a - shamed! Let
Take up your cross, which gives you strength, Which
Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, Nor



you would my dis - ci - ple be; Den - y your - self, the
not dis - grace your spir - it fill! For God him - self en -
makes your trem - bling spir - it brave: 'Twill guide you to a
think till death to lay it down; For on - ly they who



world for - sake, And humb - ly fol - low af - ter me.
- dured to die Up - on a cross, on Cal - vry's hill.
bet - ter home And lead to vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
bear the cross May hope to wear the glor - ious crown.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Luke 12:49-53 (*found on Page 15*)
Series Hard Sayings of Jesus
Sermon Baptism Fire & Division

Profession of Faith

A *Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.
— from Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV*

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 *Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!*

*Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.
Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.
— Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18, NRSV*

Silent and Personal Confession

Come, Ye Weary

Trad Melody

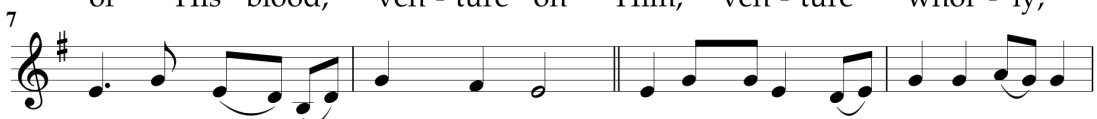
Joseph Hart



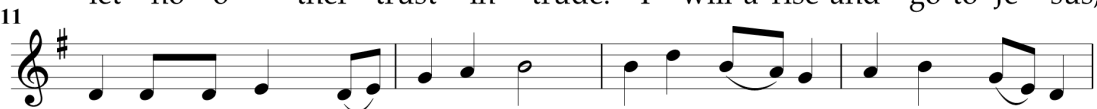
Come, ye wear-y, hea - vy la - den, lost and ru - ined
Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel-come, God's free boun-ty
Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness
Lo! th' - in - car - nate God, as - cen - ded, pleads the merit



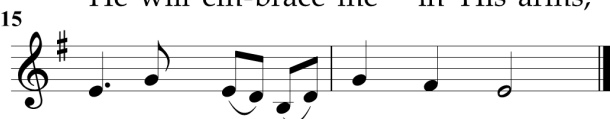
by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
glor - i - fy; true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness He re - quir - eth
of His blood; ven - ture on Him, ven - ture whol - ly;



you will ne - ver come at all.
ev - 'ry grace that brings you nigh. I will a-rise and go to Je - sus,
is to feel your need of Him.
let no o - ther trust in - trude. I will a-rise and go to Je - sus,



He will em-brace me in His arms; In the arms of my dear Sav-ior,
He will em-brace me in His arms; In the arms of my dear Sav-ior,



O there are ten thou-sand charms.
O there are ten thou-sand charms.

Renewal

L If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

— Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8, 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 *Glory be to the father, Glory be to the Son,
Glory be to the Spirit, Three in One
As it was in the beginning it will be forever, Amen, Amen, 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