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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))

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



## Looking Ahead

Hard Sayings of Jesus

### Upcoming Sermons

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
I Came to Set the Earth on Fire	Luke 12:49-53

## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN  
55105

## September 24, 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: Luke 9:57-62

57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

59 He said to another man, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."

62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

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

Deep in our timid hearts is a desire to be loved mildly, nothing more. That way, we retain control, we set the terms, we avoid risk. Our loving God, in His ferocious intensity, will have none of it.

*~ Ray Ortlund, pastor and author*

We suffer primarily not from our vices or our weaknesses, but from our illusions. We are haunted, not by reality, but by those images we have put in their place.

*~ Daniel Boorstin (1914-2004), historian at the University of Chicago*

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Americans have...a new rule written into their mental operating systems: Do your own thing, find your own reality, it's all relative. ...Today, each of us is freer than ever to custom-make reality, to believe whatever and pretend to be whoever we wish. Which makes all the lines between actual and fictional blur and disappear more easily. Truth in general becomes flexible, personal, subjective. And we like this new ultra-freedom, insist on it, even as we fear and loathe the ways so many of our...fellow Americans use it.

*~ Kurt Anderson in "How America Lost Its Mind", Atlantic Monthly*

I don't want you to be safe, ideologically. I don't want you to be safe, emotionally. I want you to be strong. That's different. I'm not going to pave the jungle for you. Put on some boots, and learn how to deal with adversity.

*~ Anthony Kapel Jones, American Commentator*

Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ. ... When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. *~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Cost of Discipleship*

Kichijiro: 'Where is the place for a weak person in the world we're in? Why wasn't I born when there wasn't any persecution? I would have been a great Christian.'

*~ The Martin Scorsese film "Silence"*

## PRELUDE

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

### Opening

- L Dear God, we come before you today. We come to sing, pray, and listen.  
A You always hear us. Help us to hear you. Amen.

### *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*

Jeff Koonce, 2013

Henry Lyte, 1834



Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet thy  
Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers  
Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble  
An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him



tri - bute bring; ran - sored, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress; praise him still the same for ev - er,  
frame he knows; in his hand he gent - ly bears us,  
face to face; sun and moon, bow down be - fore him,



ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -  
slow to chide and swift to bless:  
res - cues us from all our foes.  
dwel - lers all in time and space.



ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Praise the e - ver - last - ing King  
Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.  
Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.  
Praise with us the God of grace.

## 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 in all her breadth and variety, gathered out of every nation, to be a kingdom of priests serving you. Grant to the church true and 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.

We pray for all peoples of all nations. We pray that in every land there might be true justice. Grant that in our own communities those who are troubled, those who suffer, those who are discouraged might find support in their time of need, especially from your church. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who even now is seated at your right hand to intercede for us and who will come again at the last trumpet. 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*

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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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## Call to Worship *(from Ps 24)*

L The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

A *Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.*

### 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*

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Cruger

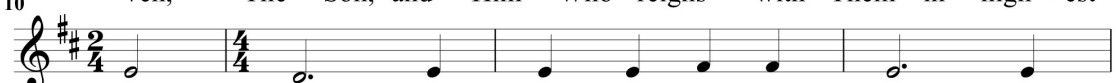
Martin Rinkart, tr Catherine Winkworth



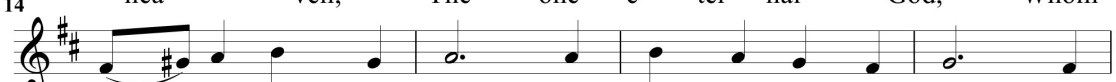
Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voi-  
O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near  
All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be gi-



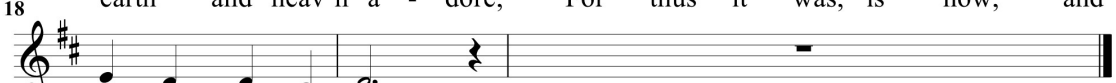
- ces, Who won - drous things has done, in Whom this world re-  
us, With e - ver joy - ful hearts and bles - sed peace to  
10 - ven, The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in high - est



- joi - ces; Who from our mo - thers' arms has  
cheer us; And keep us in His grace, and  
14 hea - ven; The one e - ter - nal God, Whom



blessed us on our way With count - less gifts of love, and  
guide us when per - plexed, And free us from all ills in  
18 earth and heav'n a - dore; For thus it was, is now, and



still is ours to - day.  
this world and the next!  
shall be ev - er - more.

Make Me a Captive, Lord

Leominster

George Matheson



Make me a ca - ptive, Lord, and then I shall be  
My heart is weak and poor un - til its mas - ter  
My pow'r is faint and low Till I have learned to  
My will is not my own till thou hast made it



free; force me to ren - der up my sword, and  
find; it has no spring of ac - tion sure, it  
serve; It lacks the need - ed fire to glow, It  
thine; if it would reach a mon - arch's throne, it



I shall con - queror be. I sink in life's a - larms when  
var - ies with the wind. It can - not free - ly move till  
lacks the breeze to nerve. It can - not drive the world Un -  
must its crown re - sign; it on - ly stands un - bent a -



by my - self I stand; im - pris - on me with -  
thou hast wrought its chain; en - slave it with thy  
- til it - self be driv'n; Its flag can on - ly  
- mid the clash - ing strife, when on thy bo - som



- in thine arms, and strong shall be my hand.  
match - less love, and death - less it shall reign.  
be un - furled When thou shalt breathe from heav'n.  
it has leant, and found in thee its life.

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### Preparation

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

**Scripture** Luke 9:57-62 (*found on Page 15*)  
**Series** Hard Sayings of Jesus  
**Sermon** Foxes Nests Plows & Deaths

### 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*

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## 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 *Holy and merciful God,  
in your presence we confess our sinfulness,  
our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.  
You alone know how often we have sinned  
in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts,  
in forgetting your love.  
Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
for we are ashamed and sorry  
for all we have done to displease you.  
Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light  
and walk in your ways,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

### Silent and Personal Confession

## Before the Throne of God Above

Arr Vicki Cook

Charitie Lees Bancroft

Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect  
When Sa - tan tempts me to des-pair And tells me of the guilt with-  
Be - hold Him there, the ri - sen Lamb My per - fect, spot - less Right-eous-

5  
plea A great High Priest whose name is love Who ev - er lives and pleads for  
- in Up-ward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my  
- ness The great un - change-a - ble I AM The King of glo - ry and of

9  
me My name is gra - ven on His hands My name is writ - ten on His  
sin Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died My sin - ful soul is count - ed  
grace One with Him - self, I can - not die My soul is pur - chased with His

13  
heart I know that while in heav'n He stands No tongue can  
free For God the Just is sat - is - fied To look on  
blood My life is hid with Christ on high With Christ my

16  
bid me thence de - part No tongue can bid me thence de - part  
Him and par - don me To look on Him and par - don me  
Sav - ior and my God With Christ my Sav - ior and my God

## 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 What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will give what I have promised in the presence of all God's people. – from Psalm 116:12, 14, 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.*