
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

Or Email @ 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

October 01, 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: Matthew 5:33-37

“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’
34 But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. 37 All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

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 Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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

To believe in something, and not to live it, is dishonest. ~ *Mahatma Gandhi*

Yes, somewhere people still make and keep promises. They choose not to quit when the going gets rough because they promised once to see it through. They stick to lost causes. They hold on to a love grown cold. They stay with people who have become pains in the neck. They still dare to make promises and care enough to keep the promises they make. I want to say to you that if you have a ship you will not desert, if you have people you will not forsake, if you have causes you will not abandon, then you are like God.

~ *Lewis Smedes, 1921-2002, Author, Ethicist, Theologian*

Human beings are poor examiners, subject to superstition, bias, prejudice, and a profound tendency to see what they want to see rather than what is really there.

~ *M. Scott Peck, , 1936-2005, The Road Less Traveled*

There are the lies of gossip ... which make haters out of us; the lies of advertising ... which make money out of us; the lies of politicians, who make power out of us. In other words, lies turn us from human subjects into objects to be used. Every lie demeans, destroys, and violates the dignity of the person you're talking to.

~ *Joy Davidman, 1915-1960, Poet and Writer*

That children generally lie and steal and cheat is routinely observable. The fact that sometimes they grow up to become truly honest adults is what seems the more remarkable. ~ *M. Scott Peck, People of the Lie*

Sow a thought and you reap an act; sow an action and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.

~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803-1882, Essayist, Poet*

PRELUDE

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

Opening

L God makes the sun rise and set. God makes summer and winter come and go.

A *He is faithful from generation to generation.*

L God helps plants grow and flowers bloom. God gives us Springtime and harvest, provisions for life, and people to love.

A *He is faithful from generation to generation.*

L God is always with us. God keeps his promises to us.

A *He is faithful from generation to generation. Let us praise our faithful God.*

All Sing: You Shine

Why should I fear man, when You made the heavens
Why should I be afraid, when You put the stars in place

Why should I lose heart, when I know how great you are
Why should I give up, when Your plans are full of love

In this world we will have trouble
But You have overcome the world

You shine, brighter than the brightest star
Your love, purer than the purest heart
You shine, filling us with courage and strength
To follow You

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*

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

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 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. Amen. –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*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

W. Chatterton Dix



Al-le - lu-ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter, his the throne; Al-le-
Al-le - lu-ia! Bread of hea-ven, here on earth our food, our stay; Al-le-
Al-le - lu-ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now; Al-le-



- lu-ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - tor - y a - lone. Hark! The
- lu-ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from day to day. In - ter -
- lu-ia! he is near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques-tions how. Though the



songs of peace-ful Zi - on thun - der like a might-y flood: "Je - sus,
- cess - or, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem-er, hear our plea where the
cloud from sight re - ceived him when the fort - y days were o'er, shall our



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood." "Je - sus,
songs of all the sin-less sweep a - cross the crys-tal sea. where the
hearts for-get his pro-mise: "I am with you ev - er - more"? shall our



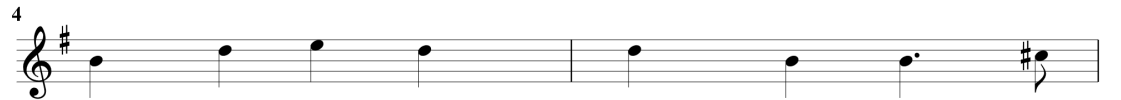
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
songs of all the sin-less sweep a - cross the crys-tal sea.
hearts for-get his pro-mise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?"

Lord, You have Searched Me

Trad. Irish Tune



LORD, you have searched me and you know
My words from you I can - not hide, you
Where can I go a - part from Thee?
If I the wings of morn - ing take, and
If deep - est dark - ness cov - er me, to
O search me, God, my heart dis - cern, and



where I rest and where I go; you
hem me in on ev - 'ry side; O
Where can I from your pre - sence flee? In
far a - way my dwel - ling make, The
you the dark - ness light shall be; to
try me, God, my thoughts to learn and



search my thoughts and you know my plans, and
wond - 'rous know - ledge, - awe - some might, un-
heav'n? it is your - dwel - ling fair; in
hand that leads me, - it is Thine And
you both night and - day are bright. And
lead me God, if in sin I stray, to



all my ways are in your hands.
- fath - omed depth, un - mea - sured height!
death's a - bode? lord, you are there.
my sup - port Your pow'r di - vine!
Dark - ness Shines - as the Light!
choose the ev - er - last - ing way.

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 Matthew 5:33-37 (found on Page 15)

Series Hard Sayings of Jesus

Sermon Vows Oaths Honesty Integrity

Profession of Faith

A *While we were still weak,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
Indeed,
rarely will anyone die for a righteous person –
though perhaps for a good person
someone might actually dare to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we still were sinners
Christ died for us. Much more surely then,
now that we have been justified by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.
For if while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
much more surely, having been reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.*

– Romans 5:6-10, NRSV

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

– 1 John 1:5-7, NIV

A *Heavenly Father,
We confess the times that we have not promoted truth in this world. Forgive us when we say one thing and do another, making promises and not fulfilling them. We lie and mislead for our own selfish gain. We give inflated praise to those we favor, while exaggerating the flaws we see in our enemies. Lord, have mercy on us.*

You alone are true, God, please grant us forgiveness through your Son, who is the truth. Shape us mold us, and conform us to your truth that we might better reflect your glory. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.

Silent and Personal Confession

None Other Lamb

Christina G. Rossetti

♩=64



None o - ther Lamb, none o - ther name,
My faith burns low, my hope burns low;
Lord, thou art Life, though I be dead;



none o - ther hope in heav'n or earth or sea,
on - ly my heart's de - sire cries out in me
love's fire thou art, how - e - ver cold I be:



none o - ther hi - ding place from guilt and shame,
by the deep thun - der of its want and woe,
nor heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head,



none be - side thee! none be - side thee!
cries out to thee. cries out to thee.
nor home, but thee. nor home, but thee.

Renewal

- L To all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gives the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received grace. The grace and truth that came through Jesus Christ.

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.*