
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.

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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 08, 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 6:27-36

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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

The man of knowledge must be able not only to love his enemies but also to hate his friends. ~ **Friedrich Nietzsche**

Most people want to grow, but the price of growth is pain. ... Christ never intended to cover up the dark side of life, but rather to illuminate a path through it.
~ **Dan B. Allender, Author/Psychologist**

We don't have an anger problem in America. We have a contempt problem. ... If you listen to how people talk to each other today, you notice it is with pure contempt. When somebody around you treats you with contempt, you never quite forget it. So if we want to solve the problem of polarization today, we have to solve the contempt problem. ~ **Arthur C Brooks, Love Your Enemies**

If you have things you're unwilling to lose, evil will have power over you. Our calling is to recognize and disempower evil's power. We must look them in the eye and know full well, that while you want to do me harm, my heart is good towards you. I want to bless you. I will stand before you to do you good.
~ **Dan Allender**

What is perfection in love? Love your enemies in such a way that you would desire to make them your brothers ... ~ **Saint Augustine**

We forget that God's primary goal is not changing our situations or relationships so that we can be happy, but changing us through our situations and relationships so that we will be holy. ~ **Paul David Tripp, Pastor/Author**

She quoted Jesus and told me I needed to learn to turn the other cheek. "These things hit you," she said. "They punched you in the face and now you have a choice. You can keep focusing on them and judging people who do them, or you can turn your cheek and focus on something new. Before you were obsessed with loving drugs, now you're obsessed with hating them. Either way, your life is still ruled by them."
~ **Michael J Heil, Public Speaker, Author of Pursued:**

PRELUDE

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

Opening

- L O God, you pour out the Spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts.
A *May we, with steady minds and burning zeal worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.*

*All Sing: Not to Us, O Lord
Not to us, O Lord, Not to us, O Lord
But to Thy name give glory
To Thy name give praise*

*We were weak, You made us strong
You gave us hope when hope was gone
So, when we lift our song of praise
With single voice and mind,
Our thankful hearts will say... (Refrain)*

Call to Worship *(from Ps 37)*

- L Trust in the LORD and do good, then you will live safely in the land and prosper.
A *Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.*
- L He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.
A *Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act.*
- L Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. Do not lose your temper – it only leads to harm.
A *For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the LORD will possess the land.*

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

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

Now let us offer up together, the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

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*

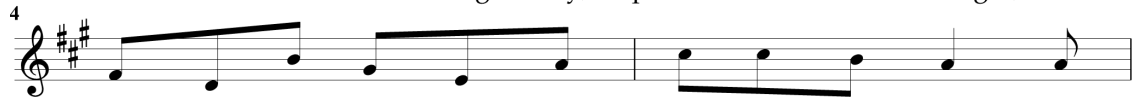
Immortal, Invisible

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



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



bles - 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



- 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!



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



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

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

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

Scripture Luke 6:27-36 (*found on Page 15*)
Series Hard Sayings of Jesus
Sermon Enemies and Cheeks

Profession of Faith

- A *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.*
— Apostles' Creed

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L The psalmist testifies: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.
— based on Psalm 66:16, 18-20, NRSV

- A *Holy God, we are weak, and we need your strength. Your Word is clear, and your grace is good. But we close our ears to your call, and with our pride we squander the gifts you have given us. Like your servant Paul, we know what you require of us; yet, like Paul, what we do is not the good we want to do, and the evil we do not want to do, that evil we keep on doing. We mistreat those we love, and we dishonor you, the One who made us.*

How long, O Lord, will we continue to ignore your will? Yet you provide streams of living mercy; you invite us again and again to live renewed lives. So we turn once again to the cross, to the empty cross, to the stone rolled away, to our interceding Lord Jesus Christ seated at your right hand, to the gracious gift of your Spirit.

We seek your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. We draw upon your promises, and we ask once again simply for mercy. With your Holy Spirit, sanctify us. Hear our prayer, O Lord, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

Silent and Personal Confession

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*)

Renewal

L You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

— Romans 8:15-17, 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 *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.*