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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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## 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 15, 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 11:5-13

And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; 7 and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? 8 I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

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 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.

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## Reflections

... pray as if you were to die tomorrow. ~ *Benjamin Franklin*

We must lay before him what is in us; not what ought to be in us. ~ *C.S. Lewis*

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I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me. / We say that we believe God to be omniscient; yet a great deal of prayer seems to consist of giving him information.

~ *C.S. Lewis, Letters to Malcolm*

We should not decide how to pray based on the experiences and feelings we want. Instead, we should do everything possible to behold our God as he is, and prayer will follow. The more clearly we grasp who God is, the more our prayer is shaped and determined accordingly." "If we can't say 'thy will be done' from the bottom of our hearts, we will never know any peace. We will feel compelled to try to control people and control our environment and make things the way we believe they ought to be.

~ *Timothy Keller, 1950-2023, Pastor, Thinker*

The best bit of advice I ever received about how to pray was this: keep it simple, keep it real, keep it up. You've got to keep it simple so that the most natural thing in the world doesn't become complicated, weird and intense. You've got to keep it real because when life hurts like hell you're going to be tempted to pretend you're fine. And then at other times, when you make a mess of things, you're going to be tempted to hide from God (which never really works) and end up hiding from yourself (which works quite well). And you've got to keep it up because life is tough, the battle is fierce, and God is not an algorithm. The journey of faith demands a certain bloody-mindedness of us all, not least in the realm of prayer.

~ *Pete Greig, How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People*

I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer ~*Martin Luther*

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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 Great God, you have been generous and marvelously kind.  
A Give us such wonder, love, and gratitude that we may joyfully honor your name.

Give ear to my words O Lord Con-sid-er my med-i-ta - tion

6

Hark-en un-to the voice of my cry My King and my God For

10

un-to Thee will I pray My voice shalt Thou hear In the morn - ing O

14

Lord in the morn-ing Will I di-rect my prayer Un-to Thee and will look up

### Call to Worship *(from Ps 135)*

- L I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; I will sing your praises before the gods. I bow before your holy Temple as I worship.  
A I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness; for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.
- L When I pray, you answer me; you encourage me and give me strength.  
A The Lord is great, he cares for the humble, but he keeps his distance from the proud.
- L Though I have troubles, you will protect me from the anger of my enemies. You reach out and the power of your right hand saves me.  
A The Lord works out his plans for my life, your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever.

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## Pastoral Prayer

- L Loving God, we offer these prayers, joining our voices to the great chorus of those who sing your praise and depend on you alone. We long for that day when all your children will live in your peace and praise your name. Until that day, give us sturdy patience and enduring hope, rooted only in Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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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## 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

May we glorify you in 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*

## Great is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness (Tune)

Thomas O Chisholm

Great is thy faith-ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no  
Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
6 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear  
sha - dow of turn - ing with thee. Thou chang-est not, thy com-  
stars in their cours-es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
11 pre - sence to cheer and to guide, strength for to - day and bright  
- pass - ions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - e - ver wilt be.  
man-i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
17 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!  
Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new  
23 mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed. Great is thy  
30 faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

## Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Asahel Nettelton

Robert Robinson

Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy  
Here I raise my Eb - en-ez - er; Hith-er by Thy help I'm  
5 O to grace how great a debt-or Dai - ly I'm con-strained to  
grace; Streams of mer - cy, ne - ver ceas - ing, Call for  
come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, Safe - ly  
9 be! Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my  
songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some mel - o - dious  
to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
wand - 'ring heart to Thee. Prone to wand - er, Lord, I  
13 son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the  
strang - er, Wand - 'ring from the fold of God; He, to  
feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my  
17 mount! I'm fixed u - pon it, Mount of God's un - chang-ing love.  
res - cue me from dan-ger, Int - er - posed His pre - cious blood.  
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

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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 understanding to keep your law and obey it with all our hearts.  
– based on Psalm 27:11, Psalm 119:33-34, NRSV

**Scripture** Luke 11:5-13 (*found on Page 15*)

**Series** Hard Sayings of Jesus

**Sermon** Unabashed Prayer

### 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

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## CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. (*Psalm 32:5*)

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

- A *Holy God, help us and heal us. We are stubborn people who stray from you. In our blindness, even our ability to confess is distorted. Forgive us for our lack of confidence in your love and mercy.*

*Jesus, you have looked down on our helpless estate and shed your own blood for our souls. In You, we have the confidence to confess our failures and shortcomings. Forgive us where we fail to approach you with honesty and sincerity.*

*Holy Spirit, create within us clean hearts that truly break over our struggles with sin, yet are also confident that your love is more than enough to cover us. Help us to trust in your abundance as we wrestle through our earthly journeys. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### Silent and Personal Confession

## Forgive Our Sins

DETRIOT

Rosamond E. Herklots



For - give our sins as we for - give You taught us, Lord, to  
How can your par - don reach and bless The un - for - giv - ing  
In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The truth we dim - ly  
Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And bid re - sent - ment



pray, But you a - lone can grant us grace To  
heart That broods on wrongs and will not let Old  
knew: What triv - ial debts are owed to us; How  
cease; Then, bound to all in bonds of love Our



live the words we say.  
bit - ter - ness de - part?  
great our debt to you!  
lives will spread your peace.

## 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 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. — Psalm 50:14, NRSV

*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.*