
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

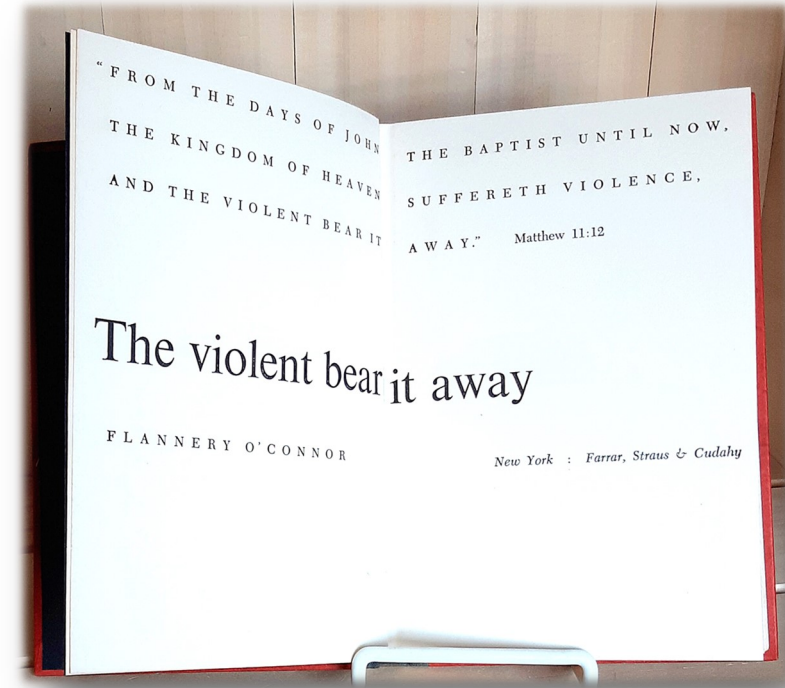
Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

Looking Ahead

Hard Sayings of Jesus

Upcoming Sermons

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
Falling Towers	Luke 13:1-9
Sin Against the Holy Spirit	Matthew 12:30-32
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

November 26, 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 11:7-15

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

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

Those who are easily shocked should be shocked more often.
~ *Mae West, 1893-1980, Actress / Playwright*

You will never be entirely comfortable. This is the truth behind the champion - he is always fighting something. To do otherwise is to settle.
~ *Julien Smith, 1971- , CEO, Author, 'The Flinch'*

We just wanna be the happy bums that we are. That's all. ~ *Mike Patton, musician*

Lukewarm people do not live by faith; their lives are structured so they never have to. They don't have to trust God if something unexpected happens- they have their savings account. They don't need God to help them- they have their retirement plan in place. They don't genuinely seek out what life God would have them live- they have life figured and mapped out. They don't depend on God on a daily basis- their refrigerators are full and, for the most part, they are in good health. The truth is, their lives wouldn't look much different if they suddenly stopped believing in God.
~ *Francis Chan, Author / Preacher*

All over the place, from the popular culture to the propaganda system, there is constant pressure to make people feel that they are helpless, that the only role they can have is to ratify decisions and to consume.
~ *Noam Chomsky, 1928- , Public Intellectual, 'Father' of modern Linguistics*

Patty: I'll be the good guy.

Shermy: I'll be the bad guy.

Patty: What are you going to be, Charlie Brown?

Charlie Brown: I'll be sort of in-between; I'll be a hypocrite!

~ *Charles M. Schulz, The Complete Peanuts, Vol. 1: 1950-1952*

"You all know," said the Guide, "that security is mortals' greatest enemy."
~ *C.S. Lewis, The Pilgrim's Regress*

PRELUDE

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

Opening

L Lord God, the words “Jesus is King” come easily to our lips, yet we often fail to grasp the significance of what they mean for us. In this service...

A Help us worship you in spirit and truth, and give us a vision for how we may live in homage to you every day of our lives, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Joseph Martin Kraus

Robert Grant



O wor - ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove, O
O tell of his might and sing of his grace, whose
Your boun-ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite? It
Frail child-ren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in



grate - ful-ly sing his power and his love: our
robe is the light, whose can - o - py space. His
breathes in the air, it shines in the light; it
you do we trust, nor find you to fail. Your



shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, pav-
char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form, and
streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain, and
mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end, our



- i - lioned in splen-dor and gird - ed with praise.
dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
sweet-ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
Ma - ker, De - fen - der, Re - deem-er, and Friend!

Pastoral Prayer

L Sovereign God, King of creation, You spread out the expanse of the heavens and dug the depths of the seas. You called humanity bearing your image, to care for creation, and for each other, to thrive in the light of your love. We bring you thanks for Sabbath rest, for this place and these friends, for your Word, that may be opened and preached into our lives.

We thank you, O God, that each day we may be alert to new possibilities. We bring you thanks, O God, for nourishing food and nourishing friends. We give you thanks, O God, for work to do and energy to do it. We give you thanks, O God, even on the darkest days of our lives we have reason to thank you and to turn our faces toward your radiance.

Care for your restless world. Stimulate the imagination of peacemakers, defend the weak, heal the sick, and send forth prophets who preach good news to the poor. Revive your church, O God, and make us strong so that we may serve your purposes, add luster to your reputation, and bring joy into the kingdom of heaven.

When we stiffen against your grace, soften us. When we sag under the weight of duty, stiffen us. O God, we did not make ourselves and cannot keep ourselves. So we turn to you, our Maker, Provider, and Savior through Jesus Christ, in whom 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 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. – 1 Timothy 1:17, 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

Call to Worship

- L We give you thanks, O God, for revealing your love in creation:
A *we bless your holy name.*
- L For humanity made in your image and called to live in your communion,
A *we bless your holy name.*
- L For the promise of your reign in justice and peace, in holiness and charity,
A *we bless your holy name.*
- L For the revelation of your kingdom in our midst through your Son, Jesus Christ,
A *we bless your holy name.*
- L For his humble birth and his holy life, for his words and his miracles,
A *we bless your holy name.*
- L For his sufferings and his death, for his resurrection and his entry into glory,
A *we bless your holy name.*
- L For the coming of your kingdom within us by the gift of the Holy Spirit,
A *we bless your holy name.*

Adoration

- L We praise you, great God, for you are ruler of the universe and have sent your Son to be King of kings. We rejoice that he has triumphed over all the powers of this world and governs the nations in justice and righteousness. We celebrate his victory in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension to honor and might at your side. By your Spirit, claim our complete loyalty, establish Christ's rule in every land and in every heart. Accept our homage as we offer our lives in the service of Christ's kingdom. He is Lord forever and ever.

Now may we with grateful hearts pray 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*

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

Be Thou My Vision

tr. Mary Byrne

Trad. Irish Melody



Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
Rich - es I heed not, nor vain emp - ty praise,
High King of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,
5 naught be all else to me, save that thou art
I e - ver with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
9 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
thou my best thought by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
13 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pre - sence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
High King of hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

L Lord God, help us turn our hearts to you and hear what you will speak, for you speak peace to your people through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Matthew 11:7-15 (*found on Page 15*)

Series Hard Sayings of Jesus

Sermon The Violent Bear It Away

Profession of Faith

A *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. Let us remember his mercy, for he is gracious and compassionate. We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ, for putting your Spirit within us, for giving us the mind of Christ, for gathering us into your church.*

We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us, for calling us to a life of gratitude, for calling us to service in your kingdom. Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he satisfies the thirsty, he fills the hungry with good things, and he heals the afflicted. Let us celebrate his abundant goodness.

We thank you, gracious Father, that you provide for all our needs, for the food on our tables, for the clothes on our bodies, for the beds we sleep in, and for the dwellings that shelter us. We praise you for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs and for the beauty and pleasure that you bring into our lives.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L While we claim to celebrate your lordship, the way we live proclaims our lack of faith in your power to deal with the world. Let us confess the inconsistency between our faith and practice. Let us pray.

A *Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by Him. We confess our lack of trust. While we sing of His lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though He is powerless in the face of today's events.*

In your mercy, forgive us. Help us to live with confidence in his presence today and in hope for life with Him tomorrow. Raise us to acclaim Him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent and Personal Confession

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
6 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.

Renewal

L Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. With his blood he has purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. He has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.
— based on Revelation 5:5, 9-10, NIV

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

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 *God of hope,
you gave your Son to free a lost world.
You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage.
You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears.
You promise us a future with you.
In gratitude, we bring you our time, talents, and tithes.
May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see
the goodness of knowing you. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.*