
A Glance at the Week

Monday

6:30 pm Small Group

Wednesday

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)

Session (session@randolphheights.org)

For Pastoral Communication, please call Pastor Ken @ 651-592-3320

Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

Looking Ahead

Epistle of James

Consider 1:1-4

Wisdom 1:5-8

Becoming Wise 1:9-12

Temptation 1:9-15

Truth & Birth 1:16-18

Truth & Growth 1:19-21

Receiving & Growing 1:19-27



Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

January 14, 2024

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 James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
A *Thanks be to God!*

BENEDICTION

- L 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 May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. 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

Everything difficult indicates something more than our theory of life yet embraces.
~ *George MacDonald, 19th-century Scottish novelist and writer*

We are always on the anvil; by trials God is shaping us for higher things.
~ *Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887, Clergyman, Social Reformer*

If we desire our faith to be strengthened, we should not shrink from opportunities where our faith may be tried, and therefore, through trial, be strengthened.
~ *George Mueller, 1805-1898, Ashley Down Orphanage, Plymouth Brethren*

I may wonder what kind of mission God has for me, when I should ask what kind of me God wants for his mission.
~ *Christopher J. H. Wright, 1947- , Anglican, O.T. Scholar*

Never miss a chance to keep your mouth shut.
~ *Robert Newton Peck, 1928-2020, Author of Young Adult Fiction*

Happiness is untested delight. Joy is delight tested.
~ *Jack Hyles, 1926-2001, Pastor*

When suffering comes, we yearn for some sign from God, forgetting we have just had one.
~ *Mignon McLaughlin, 1913-1983, Am. Journalist & Author*

It requires wisdom to understand wisdom: the music is nothing if the audience is deaf.
~ *Walter Lippmann, 1889-1974, American political commentator*

PRELUDE

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

L Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

A *Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.*
– *Psalm 95:1-2, NIV*

All Sing: Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You,

I want to see You (*Repeat Section*)

To see You high and lifted up,
shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love,

as we sing holy, holy, holy (*Repeat Section*)

Holy, holy, holy,

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you

Call to Worship *(fr. Ps 139)*

L You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

A *You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

L You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

A *Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.*

L You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

A *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*

L Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

A *See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Pastoral Prayer

L Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. 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 Gracious God, accept all these prayers offered in Jesus' name, and give us now the strength to wait patiently for your answer, and to live faithfully in response to your call. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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 *With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us – even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.*

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

Prayer of Adoration *(followed by Lord's Prayer)*

L Almighty Lord God, you gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world: We praise and magnify your holy name that in him you have revealed the wonder of your saving love to all people. With those of old who brought their tribute to his feet, confessing him as King of heaven and earth, we now present the worship of our grateful hearts, asking you to give us grace to give ourselves to you, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Hear us now, as we prayer together, the words you taught your 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*

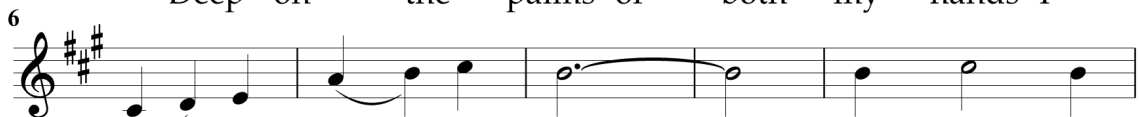
O Let Our Inward Joys Arise

Isaac Watts (Adpt)

Tune (Africa Arr.)



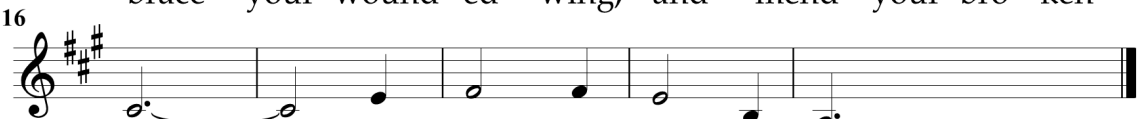
O let our in - ward joys a - rise, and
Lord on Your thirst - y chil - dren now show'r
Why do we then in - dulse our fears, sus -
Why do we boast and con - de - scend and
"Deep on the palms of both my hands I



fill us with a song, Let ho - ly
mer - cy from Your throne For Christ has
- pic - ions, and com - plaints? Is he a
think our - selves as strong? When Christ has
have en - graved your name; My arm shall



love in - spire our hearts; Sub - mis - sion tune our
ri - sen from the grave and rained sal - va - tion
God, and shall his grace Grow wear - y of his
bowed and washed our feet, and bids us sin - ners
brace your wound - ed wing, and mend your bro - ken

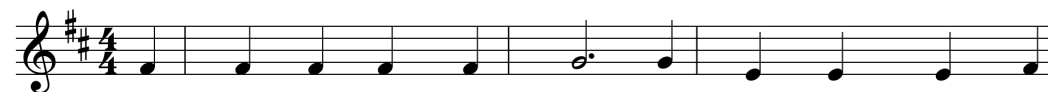


tongues. sub - mis - sion tune our tongues.
down. and rained sal - va - tion down.
saints? Grow wear - y of his saints?
come: and bids us sin - ners come.
frame." And mend your bro - ken frame.

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.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

- L Make us to know your ways, O LORD; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long. Amen. –from Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV

Scripture James 1:5-8 (found on Page 15)

Series James: Faith on the Ground

Sermon Wisdom & Suffering

Profession of Faith

- A *What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness,
or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
– Romans 8:31-35, 37-39, NRSV*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L The psalmist testifies: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you.
–from Psalm 32:1-6, NRSV

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- A *Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.*

Silent and Personal Confession

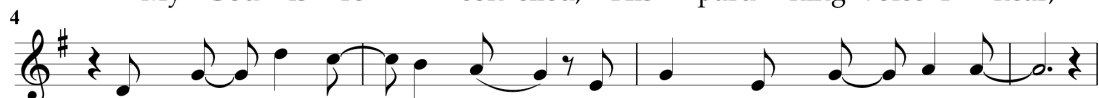
Arise My Soul Arise

Kevin Twit

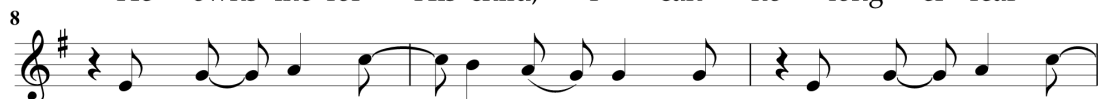
Charles Wesley



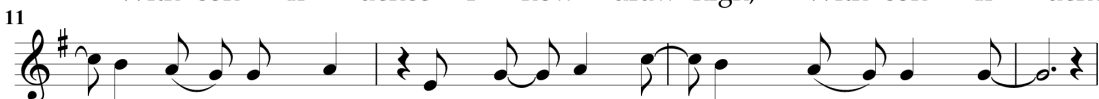
A - rise, my soul, a - rise, shake off your guil - ty fears;
He e - ver lives a - bove, for me to in - ter - cede;
Five bleed - ing wounds He bears; re - ceived on Cal - var - y;
My God is re - con - ciled; His pard - ning voice I hear;



The bleed - ing sac - ri - fice, on my be - half ap - pears;
His all re - deem - ing love, His pre - cious blood, to plead;
They pour ef - fect - ual prayers; they strong - ly plead for me:
He owns me for His child; I can no long - er fear



Be - fore the throne my Sure - ty stands, Be - fore the throne
His blood a - toned for ev - ry race, His blood a - toned
"For - give him, O for - give," they cry, "For - give him, O
With con - fi - dence I now draw nigh, With con - fi - dence



my Sure - ty stands, My name is writ - ten on His hands.
for ev - ry race, And sprin - kles now the throne of grace.
for - give," they cry, "Nor let that ran - somed sin - ner die!"
I now draw nigh, And "Fa - ther, Ab - ba, Fa - ther," cry.



A - rise, a - rise, a - rise A - rise, my soul, a - rise.



Shake off your guil - ty fears and rise

RENEWAL

L Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose
spirit there is no deceit. — Psalm 32:1-2, NRSV

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L Freely you have received, freely give. — Matthew 10:8, NIV

Gloria Patri

Karl Digerness, 2009



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to the Son,



Glo - ry be to the Spi - rit, Three in One. As it was in the be - gin - ing it



will be for - ev - er A - men, A - men, A - men.

Prayer of 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.*