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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))

*Session* ([session@randolphheights.org](mailto:session@randolphheights.org))

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

*Or Email @ [ken.highley@randolphheights.org](mailto:ken.highley@randolphheights.org)*

## Looking Ahead

*Epistle of James*

Renewal

James 5:16-20

*Psalms of Ascents*

*Psalm 120*

*Psalm 121*

*Psalm 122*



## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

### June 23, 2024

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 Psalm 121 (NLT)

I look up to the mountains —  
does my help come from there?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth!  
3 He will not let you stumble;  
the one who watches over you will not slumber.  
Indeed, he who watches over Israel  
never slumbers or sleeps.  
5 The LORD himself watches over you!  
The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.  
The sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon at night.  
7 The LORD keeps you from all harm  
and watches over your life.  
8 The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go,  
both now and forever.

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

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## 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 As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.  
~ based on Colossians 3:12-14
- May 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.

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## *Reflect, Resonate, Reevaluate, Respond*

We are apt to believe in Providence so long as we have our own way; but if things go awry, then we think, *if there is a God, he is [away] in heaven, and not on earth.*  
~ Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887, Preacher, Social Reformer

The promise of the psalm – and both Hebrews and Christians have always read it this way – is not that we shall never stub our toes but that no injury, no illness, no accident, no distress will have evil power over us, that is, will be able to separate us from God's purposes in us.  
~ Eugene Peterson, 1932-2018, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

There are no 'if's' in God's world. And no places that are safer than other places. The center of His will is our only safety  
~ Corrie Ten Boom, 1892-1983, Writer / Speaker

Every disability conceals a vocation, if only we can find it, which will 'turn the necessity to glorious gain. ~ C.S. Lewis, 1898-1963, Anglican Lay Theologian

To deviate from the truth for the sake of some prospect of hope of our own can never be wise, however slight that deviation may be. It is not our judgement of the situation which can show us what is wise, but only the truth of the Word of God. Here alone lies the promise of God's faithfulness and help. It will always be true that the wisest course for the disciple is always to abide solely by the Word of God in all simplicity. ~ Dietrick Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945, German Theologian

Our vision is so limited we can hardly imagine a love that does not show itself in protection from suffering. The love of God is of a different nature altogether. It does not hate tragedy. It never denies reality. It stands in the very teeth of suffering. The love of God did not protect His own Son. The cross was the proof of His love - He will not necessarily protect us - not from anything it takes to make us like His Son. A lot of hammering and chiseling and purifying by fire will have to go into the process.  
~ Elisabeth Elliot, 1926-2015, Missionary Author Speaker

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## PRELUDE

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

- L You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
A I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. – *Isaiah 41:9-10, NRSV*

*All Sing: Step by Step*

Oh God, You are my God And I will ever praise you (2x)

I will seek You in the morning

I will learn to walk in Your ways  
And step by step You'll lead me

And I will follow You all of my days     *(Repeat Section)*

I will follow You all of my days

And I will follow You all of my days

And step by step You'll lead me

And I will follow You all of my days

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## *Pastoral Prayer*

- L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
A *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*
- L Gracious Father, giver of all good things: For our home on earth and for your unfailing mercy,  
A *we give you thanks.*
- L Christ, our Redeemer: For your sacrifice on the cross and for rising from death so that we might live,  
A *we give you thanks and praise.*
- L Holy Spirit, giver of life: For your abiding presence in our lives and for comforting and guiding us,  
A *we give you thanks, praise, and glory.*
- L O triune God: To you be glory and praise now and forever. Let us pray:

### *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 Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us, in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

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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*

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.*

\* *The Mystery of Faith –*

*Christ has died, Christ is Risen Christ will come again! (2x)*

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel Christ will come again! (2x)*

*Christ has died, Christ is Risen Christ will come again!*

### *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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## Call to Worship

L "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

A *What did God do to help us?*

L God chose the people of Israel to make a new beginning. They received God's covenant and prepared the way for Jesus to come as our Savior.

A *Let us worship the God of the covenant, the God of heaven and earth.*

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

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.

*~ based on Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 27-28*

Hear us now, as we pray together, the words 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*

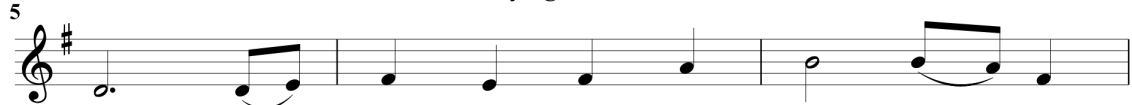
# God is My Strong Salvation

James Montgomery

Wedlock



God is my strong sal - va - tion, What foe have I to  
Place on the Lord re - li - ance, My soul, with cour - age  
In heav'n - ly love a - bid - ing, no change my heart shall  
Wher - ev - er he may guide me, no want shall turn me



fear? In dark - ness and temp - ta - tion, My  
wait; His truth be thine af - fi - ance, When  
fear; and safe is such con - fi - ding, for  
back; my Shep - herd is be - side me, and



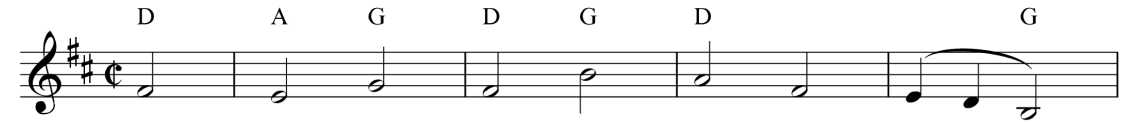
light, my help is near: Though hosts en - camp a -  
faint and de - sol - ate: His might thine heart shall  
no - thing chang - es here: the storm may roar with -  
no - thing can I lack: his wis - dom ev - er



- round me, Firm to the fight I stand: What  
strength - en, His love thy joy in - crease; Mer -  
- out me, my heart may low be laid; but  
wak - eth, his sight is ne - ver dim, he



ter - ror can con - found me, With God at my right hand?  
- cy thy days shall length - en, "The Lord will give thee peace."  
God is round a - bout me, and can I be dis - mayed?  
knows the way he tak - eth, and I will walk with him.



I lift my eyes up to the hills  
He will not let your foot be moved  
He is your Lord, He is your keeper  
The Lord will keep you from all evil



From where does my help come?  
The One who keeps you will not sleep  
He is the shade at your right hand.  
The Lord will keep you all your life.



My help it comes from the Lord  
Be hold, He who keeps Is - ra - el will  
The sun shall nei - ther strike you by  
The Lord will keep your go - ing out and



who made hea - ven and the earth.  
nei - ther slum - ber nor sleep.  
nor the moon by night  
com - ing in for - ev - er more.



My help it comes from you Lord, My help it comes from you.



My help it comes from you Lord, My help it comes from you.

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### Preparation

L O God, our guide, set your path clearly before us and lead us to follow you willingly for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Scripture** Psalm 121 (found on Page 15)

**Series** Pilgrim Journey (Psalms of Ascents)

**Sermon** Help!

### Response

A *From the beginning  
you have given your promises of loving care  
and have been forever faithful to those promises.  
When your people were in bondage,  
you did not hesitate to rescue them through the sea  
and lead them into the land of your promise.  
And we praise you most of all for sending your Son, Jesus Christ,  
born of the virgin Mary, baptized in the waters of the Jordan,  
and anointed by your Holy Spirit.  
We praise you for his gracious ministry  
of teaching, healing, and comforting,  
and for his death and resurrection in victory.  
We praise you that through his death and resurrection  
you set us free from the bondage of sin and death.  
You give us baptism as a sign of the cleansing  
and rebirth we have through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
And we rejoice that you are renewing us by your Spirit,  
leading us to be ambassadors of your love,  
until that day when your kingdom will fully come.  
To you be all glory, now and forever.*

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## CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L Our Lord Jesus said: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” As God has instructed us in these great commandments, and because we have not lived in full obedience, let us now confess our sins to God, trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

– based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

A *Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.  
Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!  
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.  
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.  
O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.  
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. – Psalm 130, NRSV*

### Silent and Personal Confession

## O God of Love, Forever Blest

Isaac Watts

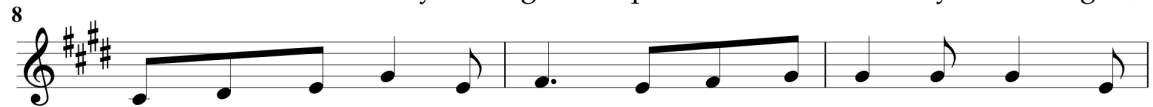
Bruce Benedict



O God of love, for - e - ver blest, pit - y my suf - f'ring  
A - las for me, that i so - journ, so long in Me - shech's  
I cried in trou - ble to the Lord, and he has an - swered



state. When will you set my soul at rest  
land; That I have made my dwell - ing where  
me. From ly - ing lips and craft - y tongue,



from lips that love de - ceit? Too long my soul (has made its  
the tents of Ke - dar stand.  
O Lord, my soul set free.



home) with those who lift the sword I am for



peace; (but when I speak,) they make for war.

## Renewal

L The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.  
– Psalm 145:13-14, NRSV

A *Thanks be to God!*

## Doxology (Special Music 'Dona Nobis Pacem')

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

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 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.*