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

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## Looking Ahead

*Psalms of Ascents*

*Psalm 120*

*Psalm 121*

*Psalm 122*

*Psalm 123*

*Psalm 124*

*Psalm 125*



## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

**July 14, 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 123-124 (NLT)

*A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.*

- 1 I lift my eyes to you,  
O God, enthroned in heaven.
- 2 We keep looking to the Lord our God for his mercy,  
just as servants keep their eyes on their master,  
as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal.
- 3 Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy,  
for we have had our fill of contempt.
- 4 We have had more than our fill of the scoffing of the proud  
and the contempt of the arrogant.

*A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. A psalm of David.*

- 1 What if the Lord had not been on our side?  
Let all Israel repeat:
- 2 What if the Lord had not been on our side  
when people attacked us?
- 3 They would have swallowed us alive  
in their burning anger.
- 4 The waters would have engulfed us;  
a torrent would have overwhelmed us.
- 5 Yes, the raging waters of their fury  
would have overwhelmed our very lives.
- 6 Praise the Lord,  
who did not let their teeth tear us apart!
- 7 We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap.  
The trap is broken, and we are free!
- 8 Our help is from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

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*

Tragically, we use contempt daily without being aware of what we are doing. How does contempt spread its poison in our everyday encounters? ... Ignoring our emotions is turning our back on reality; listening to our emotions ushers us into reality. And reality is where we meet God.

~ Dan Allender, 1952- , Psychologist and Author / Speaker

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Jesus covers us through the cross and his blood, but never without pointing out and exposing the depths of what our hearts are truly like. Our covering is not about hiding. Jesus has the integrity to name every wound you have suffered and every wound you have caused. ... and our covering is not hiding. ~ Dan Allender

My devotion to niceness has won me a lot of acceptance and praise, but it has also inhibited my courage, fed my self-righteousness, encouraged my inauthenticity, and produced in me a flimsy sweetness that easily gives way to disdain.

~ Sharon Hodde Miller, Pastor, Author, Teacher

Attention is the beginning of devotion. ~ Mary Oliver, 1935-2019, Poet

Self-contempt intertwines itself masterfully with the data of our story. I see this time and again with clients. I help them name harm they have known from a parent and they begin to experience deep grief. And yet within seconds, their posture tightens and their tears dry up in a flash. Almost without fail, memories of their own failures as a parent or a friend, sibling or spouse have immediately come to their mind. The initial experience of rest and relief vanishes before our eyes, stolen away before it has a chance to settle in. The inherent message seems to be that it is hypocritical to name other's failure when you too have failed; that this was a fool's pathway to begin with and nothing lasting will come of those self-indulgent tears. The work of contempt is swift and brutal. ~ Andrew Ide, Fellow, Allender Center

Self-righteousness exclaims, "I will not be saved in God's way; I will make a new road to heaven; I will not bow before God's grace; I will not accept the atonement which God has wrought out in the person of Jesus; I will be my own redeemer;

~ Charles Spurgeon, Sermon 502: A Jealous God, 1863.

## PRELUDE

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

L Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, to help us become more holy and more loving.

A In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. Amen.



I lift my eyes up to the Hill - - From  
He will not let your foot be moved - - The  
He is your Lord, HE is your Keep - er He  
The Lord will keep you from all e - vil The



where does my - help - come? My help it comes -  
One who keeps you will not sleep Be - hold, he who keeps  
is the shade at your right hand. The sun shall nei - ther  
Lord will keep you all your life. The Lord will keep your



from the Lord - Who made heav - en and the earth. My  
Is - ra - el will Nei - ther slum - ber nor - sleep  
strike you by day Nor the moon by night - -  
go - ing out and Com - ing in for - ev - er more.



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.

## 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 Let us worship God, who has done great things.

A *We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.*

L Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

A *We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!*

L Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

A *We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!*

*– based on Isaiah 43:19-21*

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

L With you, gracious God, we move into this time of worship, grateful that you are never farther than the reach of our need and our prayer. You who tower over the universe are yet intimately present, always renewing the face of the earth, always renewing the faith of your children. Now, in your mercy, make your way past all that worries and distracts us to lodge in us anew and to center our small worship on your great glory.

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*

*Blessed be Our God and King (Ps 124)*

David Isaac Rivers

Sur-round-ed by the dark-ness, The clam-or, and the lies.  
Our Shack-les crum-ble un-der The weight of His de-light

6  
We are not ab-and-oned, The Lord is by our side. He  
Taste His sweet af-fec-tion The Lord is by your side Cre-

10  
broke the jaws of e-vil. He brings the dead to life. Our  
a-tion sings His pro-mise: We'll dance in crowns of light The

14  
Sa-vior stands a-mong us, The Lord is by our side.  
feast is set be-fore us The Lord is by our side

18  
Bless-ed be our God & King He has res-cued us In-to His arms we

23  
give our-selves For He is our great love

*To Thee O Lord - I Lift My Eyes (Ps 123)*

Kaitlyn Ferry

As ser-vants watch their mas-ter's hand, Or mai-dens  
O, Lord our God, your mer-cy show For man's con-  
The nail pierced hands and bleed-ing side Our guilt and

4  
by their mis-tress stand, So to the Lord our eyes we  
-tempt and scorn we know. Re-proach and shame your saints en-  
shame now cru-ci-fied. Our sa-vior sits at God's right

7  
raise Un-til His mer-cy He dis-plays. To Thee, O  
-dure From wick-ed men who dwell se-cure.  
hand In His free mer-cy we will stand.

10  
Lord, I lift my eyes O, Thou en-throned a-bove the skies To Thee, O

14  
Lord, I lift my eyes O, Thou en-throned a-bove the skies

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## MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### Preparation

- L Give us, Lord, a clear vision of the truth, faith in your power, and confident assurance of your love.

**Scripture** Psalm 123-124 (*found on Page 15*)  
**Series** Pilgrim Journey (Psalms of Ascents)  
**Sermon** Freedom

### 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 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

- A *Dear Lord, You are the King of the world, the Creator of all things, and the Giver of life. You have made us in Your image and invited us to be Your children – the heirs of Your kingdom – and we give You our thanks and praise. We stop now to confess that we have sinned and fallen short of what You would have us be. We have found our identity in earthly things like work, money, family, reputation, our homes, our friends, even our country.*

*We have worshiped them more than You. We have turned away from being part of Your Kingdom work to satisfy our own agendas. We have broken Your heart with our sin, and we are sorry. Please forgive us. Help us open our hearts to receive the gift of forgiveness that You offer through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. Create in us clean hearts and fill us with Your presence. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.*

### Silent and Personal Confession

## O God of Love, Forever Blest

Isaac Watts

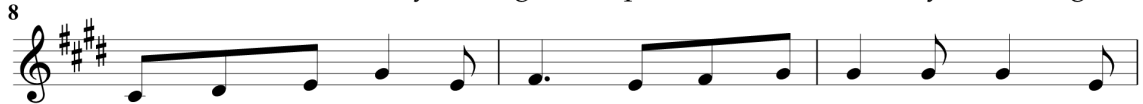
Bruce Benedict



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(who lift) the sword I am for



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

## Renewal

L But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." - Gal 4:4-6

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

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 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.*