
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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Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

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 21, 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 Psalm 125 (NLT)

A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem.

- 1 Those who trust in the LORD are as secure as Mount Zion;
they will not be defeated but will endure forever.
- 2 Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people, both now and forever.
- 3 The wicked will not rule the land of the godly,
for then the godly might be tempted to do wrong.
- 4 O LORD, do good to those who are good,
whose hearts are in tune with you.
- 5 But banish those who turn to crooked ways, O LORD.
Take them away with those who do evil.
May Israel have peace!

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 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.

Reflect, Resonate, Reevaluate, Respond

The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped — it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him. ~ *Eugene Peterson, 1932-2018, Pastor / Teacher*

I wanted a perfect ending. I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious Ambiguity. ~ *Gilda Radner, 1946-'89*

We demand rigidly defined areas of doubt and uncertainty! ~ *Douglas Adams, 1952-2001*

The fear of uncertainty is rooted in this belief: God won't meet me in the way I am desperate for him to show up. And our greatest certitude is this: God is already in the room. ~ *Shelly Miller, Spiritual coach*

Insistence on security is incompatible with the way of the cross. What daring adventures the incarnation and the atonement were! What a breach of convention and decorum that Almighty God should renounce his privileges in order to take human flesh and bear human sin! Jesus had no security except in his Father. So to follow Jesus is always to accept at least a measure of uncertainty, danger and rejection for his sake. ~ *John Stott, 1921-2011, Anglican Minister, The Cross of Christ*

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. ... We lay foundations that will need further development. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders. We are prophets of a future not our own.

~ *Ken Untener, 1937-2004, Bishop of Saginaw*

PRELUDE

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

- L Journey with us, O holy God, as we continue our way to the cross. Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than ourselves.
- A *Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts, that we might be a people of prayer, ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.*

All Sing: I Was Glad

I was glad when they said unto me
I was glad when they said unto me
I was glad when they said unto me
Let us go to the house of the Lord (2x)

[Bridge]

So glad (so glad), so glad (so glad)
So glad (so glad), so glad (so glad)

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 To you, O LORD, do we lift up our souls. To you, O LORD, do we lift up our voices, O God, in you we trust. Amen – *from Psalm 25:1-2, NRSV*

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

Call to Worship

- L Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.
- A *We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!*
- L Let us worship God as Christ's ambassadors.
- A *Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.*
- L Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
- A *Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed, renewed!*
– based on John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Prayer of Adoration (followed by Lord's Prayer)

- L Praise be to you, LORD, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. – *1 Chronicles 29:10-13, NIV*

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 - pest-uous sea; Un-known waves be-fore me roll,
stars of night, And my ship's path be a-blaze
o-cean wild; Boist-rous waves o-bey Thy will,
break-ers roar 'Twixt me and the peace-ful rest,

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

Jesus, Savior Pilot Me

♩ = 88

Je-sus, Sa-vior, pi-lot me O-ver life's tem-
Though the sea be smooth and bright, Spark-ling with the
As a mo-ther stills her child, Thou can hush the
When at last I near the shore, And the fear-ful

4 - pest-uous sea; Un-known waves be-fore me roll,
stars of night, And my ship's path be a-blaze
o-cean wild; Boist-rous waves o-bey Thy will,
break-ers roar 'Twixt me and the peace-ful rest,

7 Hi-ding rock and treach-'rous shoal. Chart and
With the light of hal-cyon days, Still I
When Thou says to them, "Be still!" Wond-rous
Then, while lean-ing on Thy breast, May I

9 com-pass come from Thee; Sa-vior, pi-lot me.
know my need of Thee; Sa-vior, pi-lot me.
Sov-'reign of the sea, Sa-vior, pi-lot me
hear Thee say to me, "I will pi-lot thee."

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

- L Lord God, let the words of your servant's mouth and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer. Through Christ. Amen.
— based on Psalm 19:14, NRSV

Scripture Psalm 125 (*found on Page 15*)
Series Pilgrim Journey (Psalms of Ascents)
Sermon Trust

Response

- A O Christ, by remaining faithful till death,
you show us the road to greater love.
By taking the burden of sin upon yourself,
you reveal to us the way of generosity.
By praying for those who crucified you,
you lead us to forgive without counting the cost.
By opening paradise to the repentant thief,
you awaken hope in us.
You have come to help our weak faith.
O Christ, create a pure heart in us; renew and strengthen our spirit.
O Christ, your Word is near; may it live within us and protect us always.
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 We come, O Lord,
on this day of worship to confess our lack of trust.
While we sing of your lordship over all creation,
we have too often acted as though you are powerless
in the face of today's events.
Help us to live with confidence in your presence
today and in hope for life with you forever.
Amen.

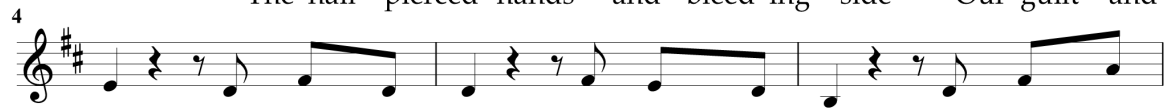
Silent and Personal Confession

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

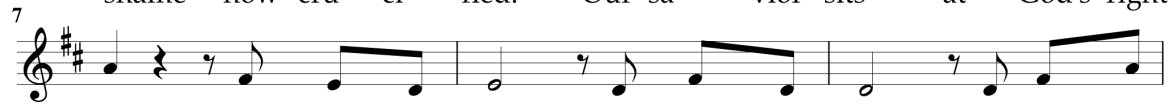
Kaitlyn Ferry



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



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



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.



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



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

Renewal

L Hear the good news of the gospel: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of those around the whole world. In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. —based on 1 John 2:1-2, NRSV

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. —Matthew 6:19-20, NRSV

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.*