
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.

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Looking Ahead

Advent Series From Isaiah Chapter 9

- Light
- Name
- Government
- Wonder



**Randolph Heights
Presbyterian Church**

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

December 01, 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 Isaiah 8:11-22; 9:1-4

- 18 Here am I, and the children the LORD has given me. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the LORD Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.
- 19 When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word,
- 21 they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.
- 9 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan —
- 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
- 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.
- 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

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—Sending Out

- L May almighty God make you faithful to his calling, cheerful in his service, and fruitful for his kingdom.

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and through you with all those to whom he sends you. Amen.

Isaiah 8:11-22;9:1-4

- 11 This is what the Lord says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people:
12 “Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it.
13 The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread.
14 He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.
15 Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured.”
16 Bind up this testimony of warning and seal up God’s instruction among my disciples. I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the descendants of Jacob.
I will put my trust in him.

Reflect, Resonate, Reevaluate, Respond

*A truth that's told with bad intent
Beats all the lies you can invent.
~ William Blake*

These illustrations suggest four general maxims[...]. The first is: remember that your motives are not always as altruistic as they seem to yourself. The second is: don't over-estimate your own merits. The third is: don't expect others to take as much interest in you as you do yourself. And the fourth is: don't imagine that most people give enough thought to you to have any special desire to persecute you.
~Bertrand Russell, 1872-1970, Philosopher, Mathematician, *The Conquest of Happiness*

The engaged mind, illuminated by truth, awakens awareness; the engaged heart, affected by love, awakens passion. May I say once more - this essential energy of the soul is not an ecstatic trance, high emotion or a sanguine stance toward life: It is a fierce longing for God, an unyielding resolve to live in and out of our belovedness.
~ Brennan Manning, 1934-2013, Author, public speaker, 'Abba's Child'

People are always clinging to what they want to hear, discarding the evidence that doesn't fit with their beliefs, giving greater weight to evidence that does.
~ Paula Stokes, Author, *The Key to Everything*

I've seen how you can't learn anything when you're trying to look like the smartest person in the room. - Barbara Kingsolver, 1955- , Author, essayist

There is no smaller package in the world than a man wrapped up in himself.
~ William Sloane Coffin, 1924-2006, Minister, author

People will do anything, no matter how absurd, in order to avoid facing their own souls. One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious.
~ Carl Jung, 1875-1961, founded the school of analytical psychology

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.
~ Desmond Tutu, 1931-2021, Anglican Arch-bishop in South Africa

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

L A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” In our worship today:
A *Let us prepare to welcome God’s dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation. Let us worship God. —based on Isaiah 40:3, NRSV*

Creator of the Stars of Night

Alex Mejias

JM Neale (trans.)



Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple’s ev - er -
In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to death a
When this old world drew on toward night You came, but not in
At your great name, ma - jes - tic now, all knees must bend, all



- last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, we pray you,
u - ni - verse, you came to save a ru - ined race with heal - ing
splen - dor bright Not as a mon - arch, but the child Of Ma - ry
hearts must bow; all things on earth with one ac - cord join those in



hear us when we call.
gifts of heav’n - ly grace. (2)Come, oh come,
vir - gin mo - ther mild
heav’n to call you Lord. (4)Come, oh come,



Come, oh come, Come, oh come, to us.
Come, oh come, Come, oh come, to us.

Pastoral Prayer

L O Immanuel, child of promise and sign of hope, you come from a distance far beyond our reach, yet are closer to us than we are to ourselves: remain with us in our own days of expectation, that we may give birth to what is just, true, beautiful, and good –

O Wisdom, your words uttered in the beginning generated a world of beauty and goodness, giving purpose and value to each creature; instruct us in the way of prudence, that we may nurture the world with justice and joy. Help us to resist evil and to obey you, so that we may walk in your ways and the beauty of your creation may flourish – through the one whom we know as the Wisdom of the ages, Christ, our Lord. 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 Hear our prayer, O LORD; give ear to our supplications in your faithfulness; answer us in your righteousness. – *Psalm 143:1, NRSV*

The Lord's Table *(Offered 1st Sunday of Month)*

Invitation to the Table

- L Congregation of Jesus Christ, 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 as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.
- 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 *Remembering your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to your service.*

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,*

Distribution of the Elements

Call to Worship / Advent Candle Lighting

- L O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.
- A *Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.*
- L Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
- A *Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God. Amen.*
— from Psalm 43:3-5, NRSV

** *Candle Lighting*

- L We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
- A *In the wilderness prepare the way of our Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*
— based on Isaiah 40:3, NRSV

Prayer of Adoration (followed by Lord's Prayer)

- L Covenant God, you heard your people yearning for a Savior. Thank you for sending your Son so long ago. We now rehearse your promise that Christ will come again, that death and suffering will end and every tear will be wiped away. Come, Lord Jesus, come. As you fulfilled Israel's hopes long ago, so we long for all these promises to be fulfilled. Amen.

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*

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD (Tune)

Horatius Bonar



I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un - to me and
I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly
I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "I am the dawn - ing



rest. Lay down, O wear-y one, lay down your head u - pon my
give the liv - ing wa - ter, thirs - ty one; stoop down and drink and
light. Look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be



breast." I came to Je-sus as I was, so wear-y, worn, and sad. In
live." I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv - ing stream. My
bright." I looked to Je-sus, and I found in him my star, my sun, and



him I found a rest-ing place, and he has made me glad.
thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I live in him.
in that light of life I'll walk till trav'-ling days are done.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

John Francis Wade



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem. Come and be - hold Him,
sing, all ye citi - zens of heav'n a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,



born the King of an - gels;
glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore Him, O
now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

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 Isaiah 8:18-22; 9:1-4 (*beginning on Page 14*)

Series *Advent*

Sermon *Light*

Response

A *In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem
to become one with us.
In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea
to teach us how to live.
In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary
to bear away our sin.
In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden
to defeat death's power over us.
In love you ascended beyond the clouds
to be our reigning Lord.
You came to love us so that we need never
feel unloved, deserted, alone, condemned.
Amen*

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

L Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.
Arise, shine: for your light has come.
A *O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.*

L And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
A *We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.*

L For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.
A *We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not
yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.*

L And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your
rising.
A *Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes
to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring
with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let
Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.
– based on Isaiah 60:1-3*

Silent and Personal Confession

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

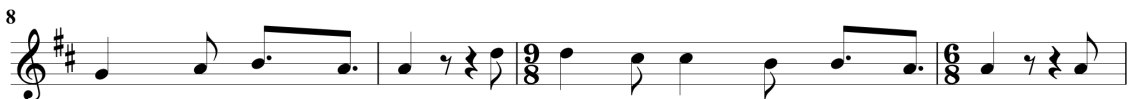
Andy Bast



Joy to the world; the Lord is come; Let Earth re - ceive her
No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the
To our al - might - y ma - ker, God, How won - drous is your



King; Let ev' - ry Heart pre - pare him room, And
ground; He comes to make his bless - ings flow Far
name Your great sal - va - tion shines a - broad, And



Heav'n and na - ture sing. Joy to the Earth, the Sa - vior reigns, Let
as the curse is found. He rules the world with truth and grace, And
all our hearts be praise Let the world His love pro - claim, With



all our Songs em - ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -
all her diff - rent tongues, And spread the ho - nor of His



plains, Re - peat the sound - ing joy. Re - peat the sound - ing joy.
- ness, And won - ders of his love. And won - ders of his love.
name In mel - o - dy and songs. In mel - o - dy and songs.



Re - peat the sound - ing joy.
And won - ders of his love.
In mel - o - dy and songs.

Renewal

L Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come. ~ fr. Psalm 85

A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

L Lord God, heavenly King, we offer these our gifts as a sign of love, devotion, and praise. Through these, as through our praises, we acknowledge that you are our Lord.

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.*