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

Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

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 08, 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 9:6-7

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

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.

Reflect, Resonate, Reevaluate, Respond

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

The primary barrier to displaying the beauty of Jesus in our churches comes from the way we re-insert ourselves into that sacred center that belongs to him alone. Exalting ourselves diminishes his visibility. That is why cultivating a gospel culture requires a profound, moment-by-moment 'unselfing' by every one of us. It is personally costly, even painful. ~ Ray Ortlund, pastor and author

The test of Christian character should be that a man is a joy-bearing agent to the world.
~ Henry Ward Beecher, 1813-1887, Am. Clergyman

In those moments of un-naming when we have lost ourselves, we must remember to return to our past redemptions to find God's mark of glory on our abandonment, betrayal, and shame. We wrongly believe that we will be happy if we can escape the past. But without our past we are hollow and plastic beings who have only common names and conventional stories. When we enter into our story at the point we lost our name, we are most likely to hear the whisper of our new name.
~ Dan B. Allender, from *To Be Told: God Invites You to Coauthor Your Future*

It's not only more blessed to give than to receive, it's also a whole lot easier.
~ Frederick Buechner, 1926-2022, American Author

God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945, German Lutheran Pastor

True giving is participating, participating in the life and work of the donee, participating in one's universe as a sympathizing member. No one can participate without giving first. Giving is essential for a meaningful existence.... All communication begins with giving, offering.
~ Jan van Baal, 1909-1992, Dutch Anthropologist

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*

Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Steve Thorngate



Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord
Je - sus, come. For what we've
If death is
left un - done, for fear that leaves us
o - ver - come and new life is be -
numb, for all we can't out -
gun, the world will be un -
run that we need res - cue from.
done. - Come, Lord Je - sus, come.

Pastoral Prayer

L Mighty Lord, master of the universe and ruler of the house of Israel, your mighty acts have rescued remnants of your people from the midst of slavery, exile, war, and holocaust: raise your scepter over us, that your saving rule may be extended to all people in all places – for the sake of him who we know as Lord of all, even Jesus, the Christ.

Root of Jesse, you reach deep down into the darkness of the earth and stir the world's longings for deliverance and hope: raise up within our own lives a spirit of courage and strength, of wisdom and insight, that we may do your work for the coming of your kingdom – through the merits of the one we know as the beginning of the ages, even 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 God of Israel, with expectant hearts we your people await Christ's coming.
A *As once he came in humility, so now may he come in glory, that he may make all things perfect in your everlasting kingdom. For he is Lord for ever and ever.*

Candle Lighting

- L We light these candles 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
L The Lord will give you a sign. A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.
A *And they shall name him Immanuel, which means "God is with us."*

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*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

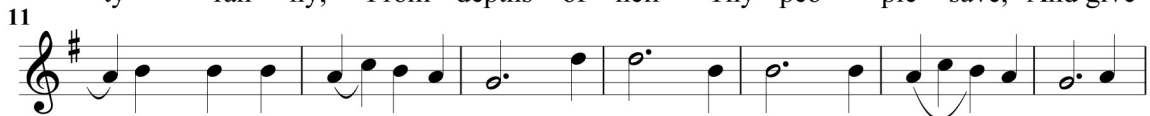
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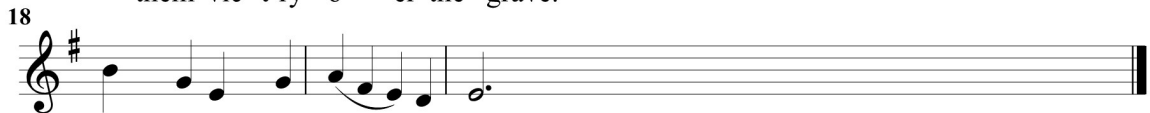
O come, O come em - man - u - el, And ran som cap-tive
O come thou, day - spring come and cheer, Our spi - rits by thine
O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el That mourns in low - ly ex - ile here, Until
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night And Death's
ty - ran - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save, And give



the son of God - Ap - pear Re - joice! Re - Joice! Em - man - u - el shall
dark sha - dow put to flight
them vic - t'ry o' - er the grave.



come to thee, O Is - ra - el

All Sing: God is With Us

The glory of God has come to the earth,
The glory of God in our Savior's birth,
Join with the angels to sing and proclaim
Glory to His name

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us,
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, God is with us, now

Eternity's likeness has come into time,
A light in the darkness, now hope is alive
Down from the heavens on this holy night,
Our God in a manger, our God as a child (*chorus*)

(*Bridge*)

Oh, let us bring him more than our silver and gold. (*chorus*)

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 9:6-7 (*beginning on Page 15*)

Series Advent

Sermon Name

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.*

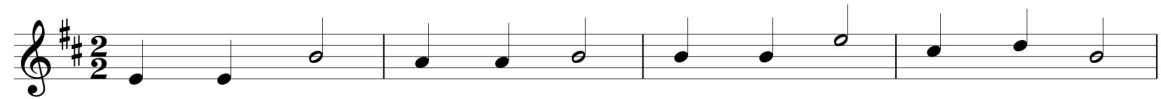
L And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your
rising.
A *Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes
to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring
with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice 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

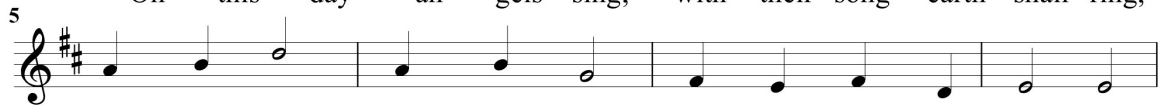
On This Day

Personent Hodie

Piae Cantiones, 1582



On this day earth shall ring with the song child - ren sing;
His the doom, ours the mirth, when he came down to earth;
God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led;
On this day an - gels sing; with their song earth shall ring,



To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be - side him,
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be - fore him,
prai - sing Christ, hea - ven's King, born on earth to save us;



Him the Fa - ther gave us. Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, glo-ry to the
from the cold would hide him
praise him and a - dore him.
peace and love he gave us.



Son, Glo-ry to the Ho-ly Ghost, to the three in one.

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.*