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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

Advent Series From Isaiah Chapter 9

- Government
- Wonder

Upcoming 2025:

- Sermon on the Mount (Winter/Spring)
- Parables of Jesus (Late Spring)
- Life of David (Fall)



## Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

## December 22, 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 Isaiah 9:1-7

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.
- 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.
- 6 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.
- 7 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!*

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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—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.

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## Reflect, Resonate, Reevaluate, Respond

*Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
~ Charles Wesley*

Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering. ~ Augustine of Hippo

A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling 'darkness' on the wall of his cell.  
~ C. S. Lewis, from 'The Problem of Pain' (1940)

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To be really great in little things, to be truly noble and heroic in the insipid details of everyday life, is a virtue so rare as to be worthy of canonization.  
~ Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1811-1896, Author & Abolitionist

The ways Jesus goes about loving and saving the world are personal: nothing disembodied, nothing abstract, nothing impersonal. Incarnate, flesh and blood, relational, particular and local. The ways employed in our North American culture are conspicuously impersonal: programs, organizations, techniques, and general guidelines, informational, detached from place. In matters of ways and means, the vocabulary of numbers is preferred over names, ideologies crowd out ideas, the gray fog of abstraction absorbs the sharp particularities of the recognizable face and the familiar street. ~ Eugene Peterson, from 'The Jesus Way'

We get our calling wrong when we imagine that God needs us, to be the hero of our own story, rather than Christ. Second, we routinely misdiagnose the problem of our world, underestimating the brokenness of sin and overestimating our ability to fix things. Third, our witness of God often depicts a Lord who is domesticated to serve our causes. Fourth, a justifiable focus on external problems can easily blind us to the depth of our complicity in the pain of the human condition.  
~ Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, 1977- , Anglican Priest and Author

*In a very real sense not one of us is qualified, but it seems that God continually chooses the most unqualified to do his work, to bear his glory. If we are qualified, we tend to think that we have done the job ourselves. If we are forced to accept our evident lack of qualification, then there's no danger that we will confuse God's work with our own, or God's glory with our own.* ~ Madeleine L'Engle, 1918-2007, from 'Walking on Water'

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

L The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight.  
A Behold, he is coming. Rejoice greatly! Our King is coming; the righteous Savior, who shall speak peace to the nations.

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Trad. Carol

James Chadwick



An - gels we have heard on high Sweet-ly sing-ing  
Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous  
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains And the moun-tains in re - ply  
strains pro - long? What the glad-some ti - dings be  
an - gels sing, Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee,



E - cho-ing their joy - ous strains Glo-  
Which in - spire your heaven-ly song?  
Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



- o - o - ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De - o De - o

**Pastoral Prayer**

L Lord of might, you are 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: raise your scepter over us, that your saving rule may be extended to all people in all places –

You are the true 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.

God of promise and sign of hope, you are closer to us than we are to our selves: remain with us in our own days of expectation, that we may give birth to what is just, true, beautiful, and good – we pray all this, through the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, abides with us, one God now and forever. 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*

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## 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*

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## Call to Worship / Advent Candle Lighting

- L The Lord has done great things for us! And we are filled with joy!  
A *Our God has turned our weeping into singing, our tears into songs of joy!*  
L O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,  
A *and remain in us forever*

### *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."*  
L Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low;  
A *The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ~ Is 40:4*  
L Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
A *and all the people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

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

- L Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, you are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; we praise you now for sending your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait, and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and dominion, now and for ever.

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*

# Joy to the World

George Fredrick Handel

Isaac Watts

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her King;  
Joy to the earth, the Sa - vior reigns! Let all our songs em - ploy;  
No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - fest the ground;  
He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove

Let e - 'vry heart pre - pare Him room, And  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re -  
He comes to make His bless - ings flow Far  
The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness, And

heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And  
- peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -  
as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far  
won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love, And

heav'n, and heav'n, and na - ture sing.  
- peat, re - peat, the sound - ing joy.  
as, far as, the curse is found.  
won - ders, won - ders, of His love.

# Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Timothy Matthews

E.S. Elliot

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy  
Hea - ven's ar - ches rang when the  
Thou - cam - est, O Lord, with the  
When the hea - vens shall ring, and the

king - ly crown, When Thou cam - est to earth for me; But in  
an - gels sang, Pro - claim - ing Thy ro - yal de - gree; But in  
liv - ing Word, That should set Thy - peo - ple free; But with  
an - gels sing, At Thy com - ing to vic - tor - y, Let Thy

Beth - le hem's home was there found no room For Thy  
low - ly birth Thou didst come to earth, And in  
mock - ing scorn and with crown of thorn, They -  
voice call me home, say - ing "Yet there is room, There is

ho - ly na - tiv - i - ty. O come to my heart, Lord  
great hu - mil - i - ty. O come to my heart, Lord  
bore Thee to Cal - var - y. O come to my heart, Lord  
room at My side for thee." My heart shall re - joice, Lord

Je - sus, There is room in my heart for Thee.  
Je - sus, There is room in my heart for Thee.  
Je - sus, There is room in my heart for Thee.  
Je - sus, When Thou com - est and call est for me.

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## 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 9:1-7 (*beginning on Page 15*)

**Series** Advent

**Sermon** Wonderful

### Response

- A *As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world – which some seek to control, and others view with despair – we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!*

*Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself, God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ – the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.*

*We long for that day when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light. Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

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## 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 *If we look at our own lives, we must confess the mixture of giving and selfishness, our waiting on the Lord turned to an endless rush, our missing the mark of Advent.*

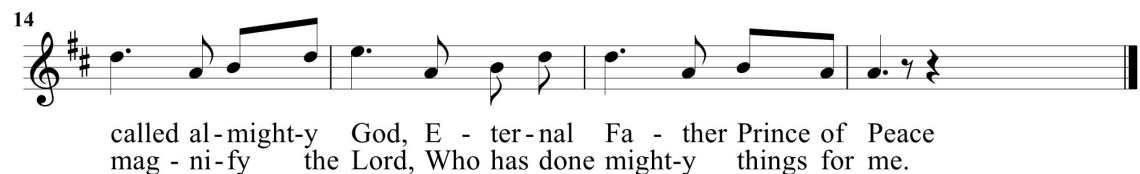
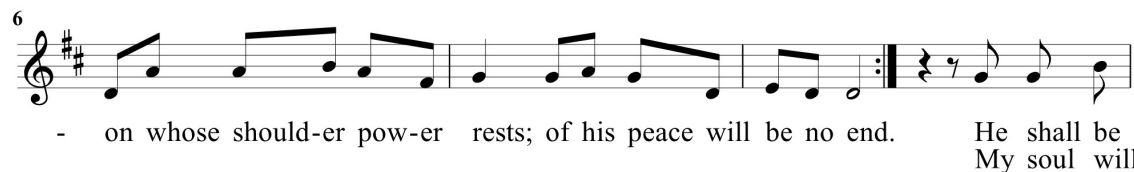
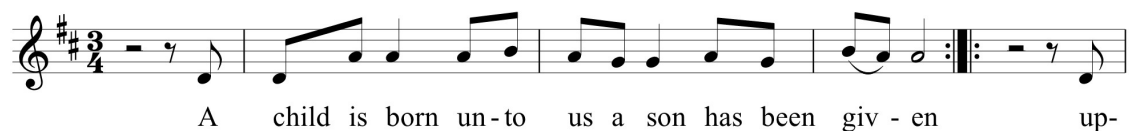
*Lord, forgive our frantic ways and misplaced efforts. But we can also trust in God, who still brings us salvation, who still supplies us strength, who hears our songs of gratitude, who accepts our joyful praise. Let us all draw water from the wells of salvation. Let us shout it in church and in town: The Lord's great name will still be praised. His saving deeds support our lives. His greatness still astounds us. The Holy One of Israel is among us. Praise the Lord and sing for joy. – based on Isaiah 12*

### Silent and Personal Confession

## *Puer Natus Est - A Child is Born*

Daniel Justice Snoke

♩ = 110



## Renewal

L Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. — Zephaniah 3:14-18, NRSV

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.*