
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

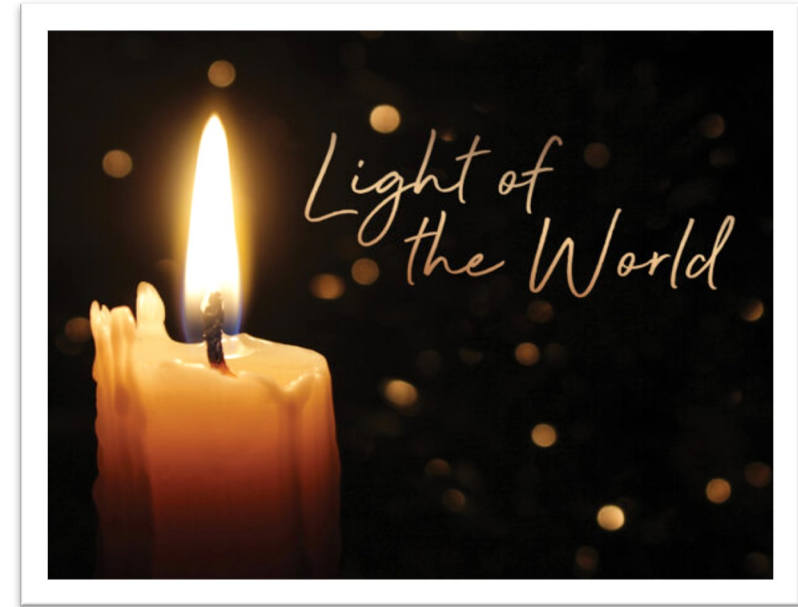
Or Email @ ken.highley@randolphheights.org

Looking Ahead

Sermon on the Mount

The Parables of Jesus

Life of David (Fall)



Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

December 29, 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.

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 Go now into the world, carrying Christmas with you into everyday life. Open the inn within you and make room for that gift of gifts, even our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

Reflections

But to deviate from the truth for the sake of some prospect of hope of our own can never be wise, however slight that deviation may be. It is not our judgement of the situation which can show us what is wise, but only the truth of the Word of God. Here alone lies the promise of God's faithfulness and help. It will always be true that the wisest course for the disciple is always to abide solely by the Word of God in all simplicity. ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945

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, *Psychology and Alchemy*

The English word "courage" is derived from the French coeur, which literally means "heart." And since "heart" has traditionally (and metaphorically) been regarded as the seat of emotion, spirit, and strength of character, the implication of such etymology is clear: courage involves the capacity to bear difficulties without wincing, to dare and be innovative, and to do what is needed regardless of its frightening consequences.

~ Salman Akhtar, 1946- , *Indian-American Psychoanalyst*

Glory [is not] transient but eternal. Not vaporous but weighty. Not fragmented and fleeting, but joy fulfilled and forever. Because whatever glory may be like, it is defined by the presence of God himself, apart from whom there is no good thing.

~ Matthew McCullough, PhD, *Vanderbilt University*), pastor

This kingdom of God life is not a matter of waking up each morning with a list of chores or an agenda to be tended to, left on our bedside table by the Holy Spirit for us while we slept. We wake up already immersed in a large story of creation and covenant, of Israel and Jesus, the story of Jesus and the stories that Jesus told. We let ourselves be formed by these formative stories, and especially as we listen to the stories that Jesus tells, get a feel for the way he does it, the way he talks, the way he treats people, the Jesus way.

~ Eugene H. Peterson, 1932-2018

PRELUDE

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

Bells – Joy to the World

L Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward those he favors. For unto us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

A We praise you, we bless you, we glorify you, we give thanks unto you for this greatest of your mercies, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

Sing We Now of Christmas

Trad. French Carol



Sing we now of Christ-mas, No - el, sing we here!
An An - gel called to shep - herds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
In Beth-le - hem they found him; Jo - seph and Mar - y mild,



Hear our grate-ful prais - es to the babe so dear. Sing we No-
journ-ey forth to Beth le-hem, find the lamb-kin blest."
seat - ed by the man - ger, watch-ing the ho - ly child.



- el, the King is born, No-el! Sing we now of Christ-mas, sing we now No-el!

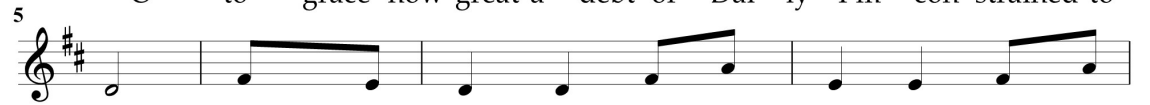
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Asahel Nettelton

Robert Robinson



Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy
Here I raise my Eb - en-ez - er; Hith-er by Thy help I'm
O to grace how great a debt-or Dai - ly I'm con-strained to



grace; Streams of mer - cy, ne - ver ceas - ing, Call for
come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, Safe - ly
be! Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some mel - o - dious
to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
wand - 'ring heart to Thee. Prone to wand - er, Lord, I



son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the
strang - er, Wand - 'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my



mount! I'm fixed u - pon it, Mount of God's un - chang-ing love.
res - cue me from dan-ger, Int - er - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

L "He has brought down mighty rulers from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly." And Mary said: "I am the Lord's servant; may it happen to me as you have said."

A *Gracious God, you placed yourself in the care of Mary to show to the world your will to save. Give us grace to follow her example: to become instruments of your grace, servants of your will, and channels of your love. May it happen to us as you have willed.*

L "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior."

A *O God of peace, you fill our hearts with hope at every Christmastide, for we remember again that this is the world you have loved. May hope, peace, and joy fill our hearts this day. Amen.*

— based on Matthew 2:13-14, 16-18; Luke 1:38, 46-47, 51-52, 68; 2:12

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 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 15:13

Lighting the Christ Candle

L Let us prepare our hearts for the lighting of the Christ Candle

A. *Ah Holy Lord,*

*This season of Christmas, break into our worlds unexpectedly.
Keep us awake, to be aware, to hope even against all hope.*

We pray for your favor.

Teach us how to be advocates for your peace, hope and love.

Help us to know that what we do makes a difference.

Surprise us with possibilities

How your vision of peace, hope and love might take root,

and how we might live into this vision for you and our neighbor.

Come, dear Emmanuel, Amen.

L. The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

(Light Candle)

A. *All creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope.*

L The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. Jesus Christ is our life and light. In his name and in his power, let us worship God!

— based on Isaiah 9:2, NIV

Puer Natus Est - A Child is Born

Daniel Justice Snoke

♩=110



A child is born un-to us a son has been giv - en up-



- on whose should-er pow-er rests; of his peace will be no end. He shall be
My soul will



called al-might-y God, E - ter-nal Fa - ther Prince of Peace He shall be
mag - ni-fy the Lord, Who has done might-y things for me. My soul will



called al-might-y God, E - ter-nal Fa - ther Prince of Peace
mag - ni-fy the Lord, Who has done might-y things for me.

Uniting in Prayer

L "This is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby, wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

A *Eternal God, we bow before the mystery of your incarnation. You have chosen weakness to confound the strong and poverty to send the rich empty away. We remember the millions in our world today who are hungry, who receive no hospitality – all with whom your Son has become one by being born in a manger.*

L "Blessed be the Lord our God, for he has visited and redeemed his people." The angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt." Joseph got up, took the child and his mother and left during the night.

A *Merciful God, we call upon you for all who have fled their homes in the darkness of night. We remember the millions in our world who have been made refugees, who have sought asylum in lands not their own, who are displaced, homeless, landless, or lost – all whose experience you have made your own in the life of your Son.*

L "He has stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans." Herod gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its neighborhood who were two years old and younger. In this way what the prophet Jeremiah had said came true: "A sound is heard in Ramah, the sound of bitter weeping. Rachel is crying for her children; she refuses to be comforted, for they are dead."

A *Loving God, our hearts are heavy with the sufferings of this world. We remember the many victims of political power and greed: the innocent killed in war and violence, all those who are tortured or put to death, those who languish in prison and camps, those missing or taken hostage – all whose lot your Son shared by being born when Herod was king.*

(Continued on to the next page...)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley

Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Hark the her - ald an - gels sing "Glo - ry to the
Christ by high - est heav'n a - dored Christ the ev - er -
Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of

4
new - born King! Peace on earth and mer - cy mild God and sin - ners
- last - ing Lord! Late in time be - hold Him come Off - spring of a
Right-eous-ness! Light and life to all He brings Ris'n with heal-ing

8
re - con - ciled" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise Join the tri - umph
Vir-gin's womb Veiled in flesh the God-head see Hail the in - car -
in His wings Mild He lays His glo - ry by Born that man no

12
of the skies With an - gel - ic host pro - claim:
- nate De - i - ty Pleased as man with man to
more may die Born to raise the sons of earth

15
"Christ is born in Beth - le - hem" Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing
dwell Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el Hark! The her - ald an - gels
Born to give them sec - ond birth Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing

19
"Glo - ry to the new - born King!"
sing "Glo - ry to the new - born
"Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Praise and Adoration

- L An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
- A *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*
- L Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."
- A *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

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. Amen.
- 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*

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

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Various

Meditations for Christmas from *When the Time was Fulfilled*
by Eberhard Arnold, Christoph Blumhardt and Charles E. Moore

Profession of Faith

- L In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- A *He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.*
- L What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
- A *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*
- L He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
- A *He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.*
- L But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
- A *And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. – John 1:1-5, 9-14, NRSV*

Good Christian's All Rejoice

tr. John Mason Neale

Medieval Latin Carol



Good Christ-ian's all, re - joice With heart and soul and
Good Christ-ian's all, re - joice With heart and soul and
Good Christ-ian's all, re - joice With heart and soul and



voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to - day;
voice; Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!
voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Je-sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore Him bow; And He is in the
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, And man is blessed for-
Calls you one and calls you all To gain His ev - er-



man-ger now. Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
- ev - er - more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- last - ing hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L Today we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord, came to earth as a human, just like us but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed from sin. With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus came, let us confess our sins and be forgiven.
- A *Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us again, today.*

Silent and Personal Confession

Words of Renewal

- L The Lord's grace is sure. God has looked with favor upon his people and has redeemed them. God has raised up a mighty savior from the house of David. God spoke through the prophets of old so that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. God has shown mercy and has remembered his promises. — based on Luke 1:68-72
- A *Thanks be to God!*

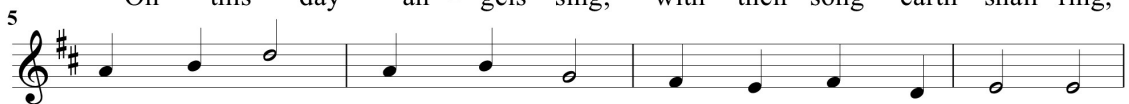
On This Day

Personent Hodie

Piae Cantoines, 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.

Doxology

- L What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can, I give him, give him my heart.

Bells – Away in a Manger

*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.*

Prayer of 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.*

- L God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.