
Scripture Reading Matthew 5:33-37

- 33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
A *Thanks be to God!*

BENEDICTION

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



Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church

435 Hamline Ave. South
Saint Paul, MN 55105

February 23, 2025

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.

Pastoral Prayer

- L O Savior God, look upon your church in its struggles. Have mercy on its weaknesses, give strength and courage to love the truth...
Look also upon the ministry of this congregation. Increase its courage, strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness to those in our sphere of influence and beyond, even to the ends of the earth. Have courage to join in Jesus' mission build and strengthen one-another.
Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children here present. Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only Savior.

God is the one who makes us, loves us, and sustains us.
God is the one who makes, loves, and sustains the world.

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. O God, in you we trust. Hear our prayers, O LORD and let our cries come to you.

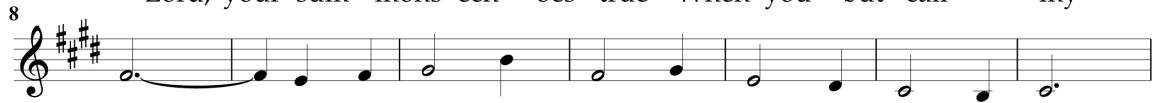
The Summons

Peacock Maule & Bell

Scottish Folk Song



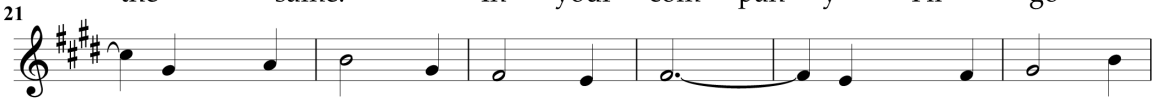
Will you come and fol - low me If I but call your
Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but call your
Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but call your
Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but call my



name? Will you go where you don't know And ne - ver be
name? Will you care for cruel and kind And ne - ver be
name? Will you quell the fear in - side And ne - ver be
name. Let me turn and fol - low you And ne - ver be



the same? Will you let my love be shown,
the same? Will you risk the hos - tile stare
the same? Will you use the faith you've found
the same. In your com - pan - y I'll go



Will you let my name be known, Will you let my
Should your life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
To re - shape the world a - round, Through my sight and
Where your love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown In you and you in me?
an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
touch and sound In you and you in me?
live and grow In you and you in me.

Reflections: *Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for other Christians is learning to listen to them. ~ D.B.*

The very thing we are afraid of, our brokenness, is the door to our Father's heart.
~ Paul Miller, Author, executive director, discipling ministry

More solemn oaths are often sworn by a look and a movement of the head than are heard in law-courts. ~ Honoré de Balzac, 1799-1850, novelist & playwright, *Cousin Bette*

As my AA and NA friends have repeatedly reminded me, rigorous honesty is the first rule of recovery. ~ from *'Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets'*

The living human community that language creates involves living human bodies. We need to talk together, speaker and hearer here, now. We know that. We feel it. We feel the absence of it. Speech connects us so immediately and vitally because it is a physical, bodily process, to begin with.

~ Ursula K. Le Guin, 1929-2018, Author, *The Wave in the Mind*

It is my conviction that our heavenly Father says the same to us every day: 'My dear child, you must always remember who you are.'

~ John Stott, 1921-2011, Anglican priest, theologian

We do not find our true self by seeking it. Rather, we find it by seeking God.
~ David G. Benner, 1947- , Psychologist, *'The Gift of Being Yourself'*

Thus to wait for the Lord is to live the covenant life, to commit the future into God's hands by means of living a daily life that shows that we know his ways of integrity, honesty, faithfulness, simplicity, mercy, generosity, and self denial. The person who does not wait for these things may be waiting for something, but he or she is not waiting for the Lord.

~ John Oswalt, 1940- , Scholar, *NIVAC Commentary: Isaiah, Zondervan*

For so sworn good or evil, an oath may not be broken and it shall pursue oathkeeper and oathbreaker to the world's end. ~ J.R.R. Tolkien, from The Silmarillion

PRELUDE

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

- L Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith.
- A Together may we glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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."

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (CON'T)

Will you be a faithful Ruling Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in the governing body of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Will you be a faithful Deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(When the Ruling Elders and Deacons elect have answered in the affirmative, a Ruling Elder shall stand with them before the congregation and shall ask the congregation to answer the following questions:)

Elder

Do we, the members of the church, accept these members as Ruling Elders or Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Elder

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

Elder Let us pray together:

- A. *God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation: give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us; that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.*

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (CON'T)

Pastor

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and **Will you** be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and continually be guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline?

Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Call to Worship (fr. Ps 37)

L Don't worry about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. For like grass, they soon fade away. Like spring flowers, they soon wither. Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

A *Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.*

L Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

A *Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper – it only leads to harm. For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the Lord will possess the land.*

L Soon the wicked will disappear. Though you look for them, they will be gone.

A *The lowly will possess the land and will live in peace and prosperity.*

Prayer of Adoration (followed by Lord's Prayer)

L O God of all creation, you alone are God. And you alone can satisfy our longing for a support that earth cannot give and that heaven will not take away.

Help us, in recognition of our common dependence on you, to acknowledge our need of you and our need of one another. Let the oneness of our worship make us one in love and service.

Hear us now, as we prayer together, the words you taught your 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

All Sing: Let us love and sing and wonder

Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood (3x)
He has brought us nigh to God

Let us love the Lord Who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood (3x)
He presents our souls to God

Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqueror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood, (3x)
Soon will bring us home to God

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He Who washed us with His blood (3x)
Has secured our way to God

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood (3x)
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Pastor

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

People

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

Pastor

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

People

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Pastor

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it. We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as Deacons, as Ruling Elders, and as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. This is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.

Elder

Speaking for the people of Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church I present for the office of Deacon: Joe Englund, Elizabeth Elliot, Stephanie Highley and David Nye; to the office of Ruling Elder: Patty Spahn. Will those preparing to be installed present themselves before the congregation to answer the following questions:

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Preparation

- L Lord God, may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. – *based on Psalm 119:105, NRSV*

Scripture Matthew 5:33-37 (found on Back)

Series Sermon on the Mount

Sermon Integrity of Words

Response

- L When we were baptized, God made clear his claim on us as his own, and we were received into the church. Those who serve publicly confirm what was sealed in their baptism, and offer themselves to God as his willing servants. We thank God for having given us this desire and pray that God's Spirit will strengthen all of us for continued service in Christ's kingdom.
- A *As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. – Galatians 3:27-28*
- L Brothers and sisters in Christ, we worship today in the context of a significant event in the life of our congregation: Installation to the office of Deacon and Elder. At this time, let us claim again God's promises to us. To recommit ourselves to service in Christ. To place our only hope and trust in God and pray for the work of God's Spirit in our midst.

Baptism is a sign of God's faithful covenant promises, under which we live as a congregation every day. Let us remember our baptism and be thankful!

CONFESSION & RENEWAL

- L The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. We express our longing for God's leading by our own transparent confession.
– *based on Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV*

- A *Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!*

*Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.
Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.
– Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18, NRSV*

Silent and Personal Confession

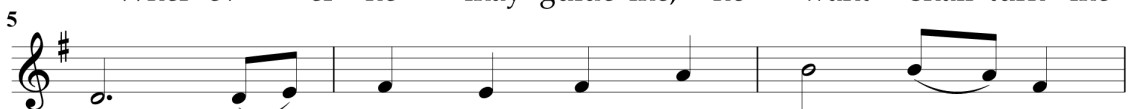
God is My Strong Salvation

James Montgomery

Wedlock



God is my strong sal - va - tion, What foe have I to
Place on the Lord re - li - ance, My soul, with cour - age
In heav'n - ly love a - bid - ing, no change my heart shall
Wher - ev - er he may guide me, no want shall turn me



fear? In dark - ness and temp - ta - tion, My
wait; His truth be thine af - fi - ance, When
fear; and safe is such con - fi - ding, for
back; my Shep - herd is be - side me, and



light, my help is near: Though hosts en - camp a -
faint and de - sol - ate: His might thine heart shall
no - thing chang - es here: the storm may roar with -
no - thing can I lack: his wis - dom ev - er



- round me, Firm to the fight I stand: What
strength - en, His love thy joy in - crease; Mer -
- out me, my heart may low be laid; but
wak - eth, his sight is ne - ver dim, he



ter - ror can con - found me, With God at my right hand?
- cy thy days shall length - en, "The Lord will give thee peace."
God is round a - bout me, and can I be dis - mayed?
knows the way he tak - eth, and I will walk with him.

RENEWAL

- L I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. – *Ezekiel 36:25-26, NRSV*
- A *Thanks be to God!*

Doxology

- L The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. – *Psalms 24:1, NRSV*

Gloria Patri

Karl Digerness, 2009



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to the Son,



Glo - ry be to the Spi - rit, Three in One. As it was in the be - gin - ing it



will be for - ev - er A - men, A - men, A - men.

Dedication

- A *Lord, we thank 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.*