

Sunday December 23, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

We welcome all who worship with us today

Prayer Needs:

- God's blessing on the preached Word today, may we all experience the saving grace of the Advent Saviour.
- For the suffering among us, those sorrowing the loss of loved ones, those with afflictions of the body, mind and spirit, the lonely and the elderly.
- For revival of God's work in our country, for uprightness among our leaders.
- The persecuted church throughout the world
- Our widows, widower and the lonely, who keenly feel the loss of loved ones during the Advent and Christmas season.

Members and friends with ongoing needs:

Nellie Fintelman George & Chris Vonk Wilma Koedam George Rus

Announcements:

Today: Pastor Elshout serves. Coffee & fellowship following the morning service.
1st Offering: General Fund 2nd Offering: Domestic Outreach/Student Support
For the Christmas break, Catechism, Sunday School and the Adult Class will not meet today or next Sunday. Classes will resume on January 6.

Next Lord's Day: Pastor Elshout serves. 2nd Offering: Building Fund

Tuesday: Christmas Day worship service at 9:30 am. Offerings: 1st General Fund
2nd: Parsonage Fund

Dearly beloved friends,

After an extended time of recurring complications after my prostate surgery, the Lord has seen fit to finally grant full recovery. I have been in and out of hospital seven times these past eight months, the last for a week-long treatment of a highly resistant urinary tract infection while on holiday in the Western Cape region. We may not know the reason behind all of these setbacks, but throughout the Lord has proven faithful to His manifold promises, of which one stands out prominently: "Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee ... *Who* passing through the valley of Baca make it a well ... *They go from strength to strength.*" Ps 84:5-7. Our God has proven this to be true in the midst of much frailty. We give thanks to God for your prayers, both public and private, for we know that this is the ultimate means through which our wonder working God brings healing.

With much love Drs. Arthur and Sonja Miskin

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"As with gladness men of old, did the guiding star behold, As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright, so most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

Holy Jesus, everyday keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide,

Where no clouds Thy glory hide." William C. Dix

December:

Tuesday 25th: Christmas Day, morning worship service at 9:30 am

Sunday 30th: New Year's Eve commemorative service, evening worship

January:

Tuesday 1st: New Year's Day, morning worship service at 9:30 am

Wednesday 2nd: Church Family Evening, Hope Haven at 6:50 pm

Sunday 13th: Pastor M. Kelderman serves

Wednesday 16th: Ladies' Bible Study, same place and time

Wednesday 23rd: Ladies' Bible Study, same place and time

Saturday 19th: Church Visitation with Pastor Klaver

Sunday 20th: Pastor T. Klaver serves

Wednesday 30th: Ladies' Bible Study, same place and time

Birthdays:

December 27: Vanessa Groeneweg

December 28: Mikiah Claussen

Greeters:

December 23: John and Stacy Zomer

December 30: Emily P. and Leah VB

Lunch Schedule:

December 23: Emily VB and Linda VB

December 30: Stacy Z. and Barb G.

Nursery Schedule:

December 23: Morning: Julie P. and Madelynn Z.

Evening: Kerri R. and Rayna M.

December 25: Leah VB and Eliana P.

December 30: Morning: Amber Z. and Olivia VB

Evening: Kenzie Z. Haley VV

Grateful acknowledgement is given for the following collections:

11/04/18 General - \$941.00 11/04/18 Construction - \$1,182.00

11/11/18 General - \$1,691.00 11/11/18 HRCS - \$5,356.00

Thanksgiving General - \$16,662.00 Parsonage - \$10,099.00

11/18/18 General - \$732.00 11/18/18 Building - \$1,214.00

11/25/18 General - \$808.00 11/25/18 Local Mission - \$793.00

~All the LORD willing~

Heritage Reformed Congregation



*Sunday December 23, 2018
4th Sunday of Advent*



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

A Time To Weep

*“Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears.”
Jeremiah 9:1*

Some tears are childish and petty. At times we weep in bitterness when we would do better to humbly accept the will of God. Such grief indicates our weakness and should be put away as useless and spiritually destructive.

There are, however, tears that are the index of strength, to use Spurgeon’s phrase. Tears of repentance are not signs of weakness. He who has never penitently wept before the Lord for his sin has seen neither the depths of his own heart nor the glory of God’s holiness. Oh! that we could weep over our sins! Oh! that our God would remove our tolerance to sin and our insensitivity to the things of the Spirit! Oh! that He would so break our hearts that we may not only weep over sin and failure but with full purpose of soul repudiate them and overcome them!

Do we not need to weep over the slaughter that is taking place all around us? The slain of the daughter of my people are very numerous. Can Christians go on watching the spread of death and destruction by drugs, drunkenness, terrorism, and wanton violence without crying out to God from the depths of broken hearts? Have we become so inured to the sights and sounds of constant tragedy that we have forgotten how to weep?

If we should weep over slain bodies, how much more should we weep over slain souls? We live in the midst of a world that is like the valley of bones in Ezekiel’s vision. Let us not look on men’s outward appearance. Let us consider their souls. We dare not dismiss immortal souls from our thoughts because of their colour, or creed, or social status. Oh! for eyes to see the desperate need of Christless souls! May the Lord make us, like Jeremiah, mighty weepers over lost souls.

If I weep for that body from whom the soul is departed, how much more should I weep for that soul from whom God hath departed.

Augustine

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Worship Services: 9:30 AM & 6:00 PM

Online services available on hullhrc.com or sermonaudio.com/hullhrc

Member Church of HRC Denomination heritagereformed.com

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