

Sunday December 15, 2019

Advent's third Sunday

~We welcome all who worship with us today~

Prayer Needs:

- God's indispensable blessing on the preached word, may the Holy Spirit draw us all to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- For the repentance and full restoration of those who have been placed under the first step of church discipline.
- Those sorrowing the loss of loved ones, those with afflictions of the body, mind and spirit, the lonely, elderly, widowers and widows in our midst.
- For our nation, that we would be drawn back to God and biblical living. Pray for our president in the weighty task entrusted to him.
- For truly humble hearts of thanksgiving to the Lord for all his mercies and benefits given unto us.
- For hearts and minds waiting on the Lord Jesus Christ and His salvation during this Advent season. Also, especially pray for those who are lonely and cross bearing, as these afflictions are more keenly felt during the holiday season.
- Taylor and Jessica Kats, who were blessed this past Tuesday (Dec. 10) with the birth of a healthy son. May God bless this young family with His covenant blessings in Christ.

Announcements:

Today: Pastor Elshout serves.

Coffee and fellowship follow the morning worship service. Catechism, Sunday School, and the Adult Class commence at 11:20 am.

1st Offering: General Fund **2nd Offering:** Benevolent Fund

The Lord's Supper which will be administered this morning. All members who are needy sinners and find their hope alone in Jesus Christ are encouraged to remember the death of the Lord at His table. All non-members who desire to partake should first contact the consistory.

Next Lord's Day: Pastor Elshout serves. **2nd Offering:** PRTS

Thank you! A warm word of thanks to the members of the Soup Supper Committee for having worked so hard to make our annual Soup Supper a success this past Thursday. Also, thanks to all who attended, brought food, did readings, and who made special contributions to the music. Much appreciated by all!

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"Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay . . . Close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there." James R. Murray

December:

Sunday 15th: Lord's Supper, morning worship service

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

Sunday 29th: *Commemorative Service for New Year's Eve 2019*, evening worship

January:

Sunday 5th: *Commemorative Service for the New Year 2020*, morning worship

Tuesday 7th: Consistory Meeting at church, 7:00 pm

Wednesday 8th: *Monthly Church Family Night*, Hope Haven at 6:50 pm

Wednesday 15th: Ladies' Bible Study, same time and location

Tuesday 21st: Informational Meeting at church, 7 pm (see pastoral letter for details)

Wednesday 22nd: Ladies' Bible Study, same time and location

Members and friends with ongoing needs:

Wilma Koedam George & Chris Vonk Nellie Fintelman Mrs. Joan Maassen

Senior birthday:

December 17: Wilma Van Beek, 92 years

Birthdays:

December 17: Anthony Rozeboom

December 17: Dominic Rozeboom

December 20: Harvey Spaans

Greeters:

December 15: Chris and Becky Van Der Brink

December 22: Toby M., Hank R. and Brent B.

Lunch Schedule:

December 15: Stacy Z. and Barb G.

December 22: Paige C. And Misty D.

Grateful acknowledgement is given for the following collections:

11/03/19: **General** - \$3,322.00

11/10/19: **General** - \$851.00

11/17/19: **General** - \$1,264.00

11/24/19: **General** - \$889.00

Thanksgiving: **General**: \$21,680.00

11/10/19: **Building** - \$2,172.00

11/17/19: **HRC Mission** - \$4,249.00

11/24/19: **Student Support** - \$4,270.00

Thanksgiving: **Construction** - \$43,543.00

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All the LORD willing

Luke 1:67-75

What deep thankfulness marked the Jewish believer's heart at the prospect of Messiah's appearing! Praise is the first word that falls from Zacharias' mouth as soon as his dumbness is removed and his speech restored.

At this period of the world we can hardly understand the depth of this good man's feelings. We must imagine ourselves in his position, seeing the fulfillment of the oldest promise in the Old Testament, the promise of a Saviour, and beholding the accomplishment of this promise brought near to our own door. Then perhaps we may have some idea of the feelings of Zacharias when he cried out (v. 68).

Zacharias stresses God's fulfillment of his promises (vv. 68-75). He speaks of these things in the manner of the prophets as a thing already accomplished, sure to take place.

It is clear that the souls of Old Testament believers fed much on God's promises. They were obliged to walk by faith far more than we are. They knew nothing of the great facts which we know about Christ's life and death and resurrection. They looked forward to redemption as a thing hoped for, but not yet seen – and their only warrant for hope was God's covenanted Word. Their faith may well put us to shame.

Let us learn to rest on promises and embrace them as Zacharias did. Let us not doubt that every word of God about his people concerning future things shall be as surely fulfilled as every word about them has been fulfilled concerning things past. Their safety is secured by promise. The world, the flesh, the devil shall never prevail against any believer. Their acquittal is secured by promise, as is their final glory. Let us be persuaded of these promises. Let us embrace them and not let them go. They will never fail us. God's Word is never broken. He is not a man that he should lie. We have a seal on every promise that Zacharias never saw. We have the seal of Christ's blood to assure us that God has promised God will perform.

J C Ryle

Heritage Reformed Congregation

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*"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel
before the LORD our maker." Psalm 95:6*



*Hull, Iowa
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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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