

Sunday December 22, 2019

Advent's fourth 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. Especially pray for those who are lonely and cross bearing, as these afflictions are more keenly felt during the holiday season.
- Harvey Spaans, who will undergo outpatient surgery on Monday, 12/23.
- Joel and Mindy Vander Waal with the passing away of Mindy's grandma Mrs. Jake Rus (Fran) this past Tuesday, at 91 years old.

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.

Note: There will be no Catechism or Sunday School on December 29 or on January 5

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

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

Wednesday: *Christmas Day*, worship service at 9:30 am.

Offering: General Fund

Wedding Announcement: *Alex Rust* and *Alexis Davelaar* will be united in marriage on Friday, January 3, 2020, the Lord willing, in our sanctuary. Any lawful objections must be submitted to the consistory in writing by January 1, 2020.

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"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel." Phillips Brooks

December:

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

Birthdays:

December 27: Vanessa Groeneweg

December 28: Mikiah Claussen

Greeters:

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

December 29: Bruce and Emily Van Beek

Lunch Schedule:

December 22: Paige C. And Misty D.

December 29: Lavonne S. and Annette M.

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

Hearing the Shepherd
“...why hear ye him?” John 10:20

Heritage Reformed Congregation

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Sunday December 22, 2019

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



Hull, Iowa
712.439.1630

Pastor: Rev. Bartel Elshout

E-mail: belshout@gmail.com - Cell #: 712-451-9302

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

Bulletin information to lindamvanbeek@aol.com

The worldling asks, Why this Bible at your kitchen table and at your bedside? Why attend a church that is all preaching and prayer with nothing to entertain? These are real questions from the lips of worldlings, but the Christian can answer them a thousand times over!

Hearing Christ's voice is the mark of true sheep. Our Lord says, "My sheep hear my voice" (John 10:27). All who claim to be Christ's redeemed sheep have heard His voice humbling them and calling them to sit at His feet in the enjoyment of pardon from all sin. Do you see that sheep darting from the flock, seeking its own way in rebellion to the Shepherd's voice? That is a lost sheep, but Christ's sheep hear His voice and follow Him.

Their shepherd speaks words of truth. Many hirelings are clamoring for your ears, but Christ alone speaks savingly to your soul. He tells you, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (v. 11). No other supposed saviour speaks words of truth and life as our beloved Redeemer in His death.

This good Shepherd also speaks words of love and mercy. Go to one of Christ's sheep, Mary Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and ask her, "Why hear ye him?" With flowing tears, she will tell the story of her Saviour's multiplied mercies. His words of pardon were music to her ears and the song of her soul. The Master's voice inspires His hearing sheep to listen with the fullest assurance to the Shepherd of their souls and to turn a deaf ear to the criticism of the world.