

# *Sunday December 8, 2019*

## *Advent's second 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.
- Thanksgiving for the harvest & for our famers being kept safe thru this season
- For truly humble hearts of thanksgiving to the Lord for all his mercies and benefits given unto us.

### **Announcements:**

**Today:** Pastor Elshout serves.

**Today:** Christmas song practice for young people. (see note below)

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: Local Mission Fund

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

The Lord's Supper which will be administered next Sunday 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.

**Thursday: Christmas Soup Supper & Singalong** will be this Thursday at *Faith Reformed Church* in Rock Valley, 6:30 pm. All are welcome, your family members and friends too! Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex for food and drink items. If you have not yet signed up, please do so this morning. Thanks!

**Practice today** after the morning service for ages 4-12. Young people please get a quick snack and then return to the sanctuary for practice.

**New this year:** We would like to invite anyone who can play the piano, or another instrument, to play at the soup supper for the beginning of our evening as background music. Young people are encouraged to help us out with this too! See the sign-up sheet in narthex. Any questions can be directed to the committee members. (Kip & Annette, Steve VV, Esther VDB, Lee & Kerri, Pete & Linda) Thanks to all for your help in making this a memorable and God glorifying event!

### **December:**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>: Singing at *Whispering Heights*, Rock Valley at 6:30 pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>: Ladies' Bible Study, same time and location

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>: *Christmas Soup Supper & Singalong*, Faith Reformed Church, RV

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>: Lord's Supper, morning worship service

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>: *Christmas Day*, morning worship service at 9:30 am

### **January:**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>: Consistory Meeting at church, 7:00 pm

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

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>: Ladies' Bible Study, same time and location

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>: Ladies' Bible Study, same time and location

### **Members and friends with ongoing needs:**

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

### **Senior birthday:**

December 8: Dick Bleyenbergh, 81 years

### **Birthdays:**

December 8: Ryan Groeneweg

### **Greeters:**

December 8: Dick and ClaraAnn Bleyenbergh

December 15: Chris and Becky Van Der Brink

### **Lunch Schedule:**

December 8: Emily VB and Linda VB

December 15: Stacy Z. and Barb G.

### **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*

*"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins." Isaiah 40:1-2*

## *Our Listening God*

*"O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come."*  
Psalm 65:2

There come times in each life when loneliness overshadows like a cloud, and no one is there to listen and provide counsel. Or perhaps there is some problem so personal and intimate that it seems unfitting or too embarrassing to share with anyone else.

But God will listen! No need is so small, no place too remote, no burden too heavy that He who is the "God of all grace" and "the God of all comfort" (1 Peter 5:10; 2 Corinthians 1:3) will not listen and care. "The LORD will hear when I call unto him" (Psalm 4:3).

Young people sometimes complain that their parents won't listen to them; wives may say their husbands don't listen; sometimes it seems that no one will listen to our questions or ideas about anything. But "the LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth" (Psalm 145:18). Therefore, "pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah" (Psalm 62:8).

But how can He listen? After all, God is far away upon His throne. The risen Savior ascended far above all heavens to sit down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. How can the Father hear when we whisper a prayer in our hearts that no human could hear?

God is indeed up there, but He is also right here! Jesus said: "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7). Our God is a triune God, and He can be both in heaven and in our room and even, as the Holy Spirit, within our very hearts. Of course, "if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18). But for those who confess and forsake their sins, "his ears are open unto their prayers" (1 Peter 3:12).

*Dr. H. Morris*

# *Heritage Reformed Congregation*

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*Sunday December 8, 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*

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*E-mail: [belshout@gmail.com](mailto:belshout@gmail.com) - Cell #: 712-451-9302*

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

*Online services available on [hullhrc.com](http://hullhrc.com) or [sermonaudio.com/hullhrc](http://sermonaudio.com/hullhrc)*

*Member Church of HRC Denomination [heritagereformed.com](http://heritagereformed.com)*

*Bulletin information to [lindamvanbeek@aol.com](mailto:lindamvanbeek@aol.com)*