

## MEDITATION – Holy Courage

It is human nature to run from disaster, making it all the more remarkable when people do not. In World War II, Adolf Hitler tried to break Britain's resistance by relentless bombing raids targeting London. As prime minister, Winston Churchill was a target; nonetheless, he insisted on watching the nightly raids from his roof and walked the bombed streets with the smoke still rising. As he walked, he wept. With a handkerchief in one hand and a walking stick in the other, he would call out encouragement, rallying Londoners in the middle of ruin. In the thick of war with no victory in sight, he filled the radio waves with a call to courage: "It would be foolish to disguise the gravity of the hour and more foolish to lose heart and courage. . . . We shall not fail or falter, we shall not weaken or tire."

The drone of bombers may not fill our ears, but circumstances can fill us with foreboding and fear as smoke rises from the streets of our lives. Life in a fallen world requires courage—strength that exercises itself in the face of fear or pain. Sometimes that courage is a bold action born from conviction and confidence. At other times, courage is as quiet as persisting faithfully another day. Isaac Watts contrasted these two forms of Christian courage:

*Active courage is a steadiness and bravery of mind that is undaunted at opposition or threatening dangers. Passive valor is that constancy of soul that enables us to bear sufferings without repinings or outward tokens of sinking or despondency.*

Our nature is to turn inward and shrink back when things fall apart. But holy courage compels us out of ourselves in active trust toward God and love for others. We are always striving for rest, but the Christian life is one of active obedience that develops steadfastness and courage. Churchill's walking the streets is a picture of the Christian's call to respond with courage to adversity and to encourage each other with boldness and cheer.

[Psalm 46](#) is from someone experiencing so much anguish that it felt as if the earth itself was collapsing in on him. In the middle of disaster and darkness, he holds up the shield of faith and shouts with confidence that God is his refuge and strength. With this, he extinguishes the fiery arrows of the evil one that set fire to fearful hearts and minds—arrows designed to weaken our trust in God, to cause us to falter in obedience, and to doubt the faithfulness of God's Word.

Churchill appealed to the glory of the British spirit of grit and determination as well as the coming glory of defeating the enemy. We have a greater reason for courage: we follow Jesus, who is the overcomer of the world, the devil, and death. In Him, we are more than conquerors, and since He is ours, we sing in darkness with the hymn: "We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or death. He sees and blesses in worst distresses." – Kara Dedert, *Tabletalk*, Sept. 2024, p. 38

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Please send your **bulletin information** to: [lindamvanbeek@aol.com](mailto:lindamvanbeek@aol.com)

For an update on your family news, counseling, questions and other situations please feel free to reach out to Pastor van der Hoek

# Hull Heritage Reformed Church

## Bulletin



**Lord's Day – May 4, 2025**

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

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*I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the  
house of the LORD. - Psalm 122:1*



We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us today. As we worship centered around the Word of God, we pray that this Word may be blessed in your life. If you are visiting today, our host family, **Doug and Julie Post** would love to host you following this morning's service.

#### PRAYER REQUEST

- God's blessing on his Word, and the preparatory message today.
- Lonely, sick, elderly and cross-bearing and all those unable to worship with us.
- Thanksgiving for the rain.
- PRTS Graduation - We pray for all those who graduated this past Friday and await the Lord's call to labor in the fields that are white for harvest. Pray for blessing and faithfulness and that the gates of hell would know that there are new laborers to serve the King.
- God's blessing on the Rooted&Reformed Co-Op meeting this week.
- HRC Synod meetings being held in Grand Rapids this week, pray for wisdom, brotherly love, unity; pray in all decisions the King of the church would be honored.
- Tanner & Joanna Van Middendorp & family with the passing away of Joanna's grandmother, Mrs. Jeannette Van Ginkel at 90 yrs of age.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

**Rooted&Reformed Coop** - Join us for an information evening this week Tuesday, May 6, 7pm at church about the Rooted&Reformed Co-Op initiative. We hope to present a bit more about the Co-Op idea and the exciting opportunity of working together with Grace Christian Academy and their Distance Learning Program. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions you might have!

#### Consistory Notes (part 2)

- 1) This July is our congregation's 30th anniversary! Some initial thought was put into how to commemorate this milestone.
- 2) Based on a suggestion from a member, we will be working with Premier Communications to broadcast our weekly worship services on the local cable network serving Rock Valley and possibly Hull.
- 3) Please note that any member or associate member, male or female, is welcome to meet with the consistory to discuss any topics you might have. Just reach out to a consistory member in advance of our monthly meeting.

**Spanish VBS** - We are seeking volunteers to make snacks and serve food for a Spanish VBS in the Sioux Center URC on July 14, from 1-4 PM. We also need volunteers who can play piano or help the teachers. No Spanish skills needed! Please sign up in the narthex.

**Camp** - We want to gratefully acknowledge God for the generous donation for the HRC Youth Camp. The funds have been designated to offset the camp registration fee for families that would like to send their children to HRC camp but cannot financially afford it. Any families needing support should reach out to HRC GR deacons at [hrcdeacons@hrcgr.org](mailto:hrcdeacons@hrcgr.org).

#### MAY ACTIVITY AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor van der Hoek serves at 9:30am and 6:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fellowship and refreshments following the morning service in the basement</li> <li>▪ Catechism, Sunday School and the Adult Class at 11:20am</li> <li>▪ Youth Group meets following the evening service.</li> <li>▪ 1st Offering - General Fund; 2nd Offering - Construction Fund</li> </ul>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	HRC Synod Prayer Service, 7pm (ET), HRC/GR (live streamed on sermonaudio.com)
May 6-8	HRC Synod meetings at PRTS in Grand Rapids
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Rooted&amp;Reformed COOP</i> meeting, 7pm at church
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Singalong & Prayer at John and Barb's home, 7pm
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor van der Hoek serves at 9:30am and 6:00pm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Lord's Supper</b>, morning service</li> <li>▪ Fellowship and refreshments following the morning service</li> <li>▪ No Catechism or Sunday School</li> <li>▪ 2nd Offering: Benevolent Fund</li> </ul>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Consistory Meeting, 7pm at church
May 16-19	HRC Retreat, Thamesford Ontario (see note in previous bulletins)
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Student Andy Gruswitz serves
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Catechism and Sunday School for this season
Sunday 25	Student Daniel Navarro serves
<b>JUNE PREVIEW</b>	
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Commemoration of Ascension Day
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pentecost
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Congregational Meeting, 7pm at church
<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
May 5	AJ Vander Waal
May 9	Hunter Maassen
<b>LUNCH SCHEDULE</b>	
May 4	Emily VB & Linda VB
May 11	Stacy Z. & Misty D.
<b>GREETER SCHEDULE</b>	
May 4	Pastor & Hanneke van der Hoek
May 11	Doug & Julie Post
<b>HOST FAMILY SCHEDULE</b>	
May 4	Doug & Julie Post
May 11	Pastor & Hanneke van der Hoek
May 18	Harvey & Lavonne Spaans
May 25	Pete & Linda Van Beek
<b>NURSERY SCHEDULE</b>	
May 4	<b>AM:</b> Marilyn G., Vanessa G. & Brynlie Z <b>PM:</b> Ciana Z. & Miylie Z.
May 11	<b>AM:</b> Jacie VW, Julia vdH & Lois vdH <b>PM:</b> Ellie P. & Olivia VB