

## PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH

May 1, 2022; All this the Lord willing

**Today:** Rev. J.A. VandenBerg PM service

**Thursday, May 5:** National Day of Prayer service, 7:00

**Sunday, May 8:** Dr. J Bilkes both services; Pastor Pronk is serving Dundas FRC

**Wednesday, May 11:** Lay Preaching, 7:00

**Thursday, May 26:** Ascension Day service, 7:00

**Tuesday, June 2:** Congregational Meeting 7:00

### Collection Schedule

	First	Second
<b>Today</b>	General	Benevolent
<b>May 8</b>	General	CEF

### Nursery Schedule

<b>Today: AM</b>	Katie Klaasen, Kate Boerkoel
<b>PM</b>	Monica Bazen, Lauren Boerkoel, Charity VanderBoon
<b>May 8: AM</b>	Sarah Schipper, Gloria VanderBoon
<b>PM</b>	Heidi Schipper, Mya Schipper, Mairi Heikoop

### Family Visitation Schedule

**Wednesday, May 4** Jason Klaasen family, 7:00

**Tuesday, May 10** Bryan Dykema family, 7:00

### Youth Group

- **May 1:** Singalong at Bazen's
- **May 15:** Singalong at Bob Boerkoel's
- **May 21, 6:00** Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner

### Announcements

- A bridal shower for Leah Boerkoel and Hosanna Bazen is scheduled for Saturday May 7th at 9:30 am at church.
- There will be a dinner fundraiser for Timotheus on Friday, May 20 at 6:00pm at the Plymouth Christian School gym.. Walter Rozeboom will give a presentation regarding his recent trip to Malawi.
- The Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary's graduation ceremony will be , Friday, May 6, at 7:30 pm at Heritage Reformed Church, 540 Crescent St. NE, Grand Rapids. This year's commencement speaker will be Dr. John W. Tweeddale from Reformation Bible College.
- Dr. Michael Barrett will present on Revival and the Scriptural Hope for the Future Glory of the Church on Earth May 17 at 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall of KRC at 5300 Comstock Ave in Kalamazoo. [KalamazooReformed.org](http://KalamazooReformed.org).
- The "Walk by Faith" group of Maranatha FRC, Hamilton, ON will hold a speaker evening, Friday, May 6, 8:00. Rev. Hutton will address the theme of Grace Abounding and Pilgrim's Progress. [walkbyfaith.speakereveings@gmail.com](mailto:walkbyfaith.speakereveings@gmail.com)
- Kalamazoo Reformed Church is planning a Spring Retreat focusing on Redeeming Your Time for ages 19-29 from Thursday evening, May 26, to Saturday afternoon, May 28. For additional information and registration: [www.kalamazooreformed.org/spring-retreat](http://www.kalamazooreformed.org/spring-retreat)

### Meditation

Psalm 72:1, *Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.* In the first verses of Psalm 72 we encounter two words three times each, they are the words: 'judgement' or 'judge' and 'righteousness'.

The first verse of the Psalm is a prayer. A prayer of David for his son Solomon. Solomon is called 'king' and 'son of the king.' And David prays that his son, that is, the son of the king, who is going to be king, will receive 'judgements and righteousness' from God.

If we read through the Psalm in its entirety, it is clear that David is here prophetically praying and speaking of the great and superior Solomon, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. So, in the first verse, we hear a prayer from David to give the Messiah rights and righteousness.

Then in the next three verses, we hear what the result will be when the Messiah will receive 'judgements and righteousness' from God. Then there will be a judging with righteousness! But what does this really mean? And why is this so important that David begins his prayer with this?

The prayer that the Messiah will receive 'righteousness' means that the Messiah will be just and will act justly. His status and his behavior are according to God's standard, God's laws, God's word. And what is God's standard? What is His law characterized by? What is the core of His word? Love. The apostle John says, 'God is love,' and the twofold summary of the law reads, "love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves." David prays that the Messiah will be a king of love, acting out of love. And love is directed first and foremost to those who need it so much, to 'the poor and needy'. The Messiah we read in Psalm 72:4 'will judge the poor of the people'. The poor, that is those who lack the means to sustain themselves in life. These poor are also needy, these are people who lack everything.

What an image rises here of the Messiah! He came for tax collectors, sinners, and prostitutes. He seeks people who lack the ability to live in love of God and neighbor. And He seeks them and acts for them! Everything that is lacking with them can be found with Him and He puts it to use for them. He poured out His life for them so that they would live and have peace.

But David in his prayer also asks for 'judgements'. That's a broad word, but at its core it means 'to have authority and authority and to act in that way.' How we find that with the Messiah! He has all power in heaven and on earth. He acts with authority. And how does He deploy that? We read in Psalm 72, 'By judging the people with righteousness.' So what does that mean? Well, beautifully we read that in the fourth verse, 'He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.' The Messiah uses His authority obtained by God the Father to redeem the one who lacks everything. With Him is strength to fight against sin, where the poor and needy fail. Yes more, He, the Messiah 'breaks in pieces the oppressor.' We don't have to do that. He rises up over injustice and will justly punish those who do injustice,. And we understand that this also and especially concerns the prince of darkness and his henchmen. He won the victory over them on Calvary! He did so in the way of self-denial, the way of love. And now He sits at the right hand of God the Father and has all power and authority.

Blessed is he who has that King as his King. He has a King of 'law and justice'. That person will follow the path of that King on the track of self-denying love. He will place everything, even the injustice that happens to him or her, in His hands. That one will have peace in his or her heart. *Rev. J.Th. Pronk*