

PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH

May 7, 2023; All this the Lord willing

May 16: Consistory Meeting, 7:00

May 17: Titus 2, 7:00

May 18: Ascension Day service, 7:00

May 24: Prayer Meeting, 7:00; *Jon Rozeboom*

Collection Schedule

Today: General Benevolent

May 14: General CEF

May 18, Ascension Day: Family Camp

Nursery Schedule

Today AM: Allison Kelderman, Mairi Heikoop, Justus Bazen

PM: Paula Rozeboom, Meleah Tubergen, Tanner Klaasen

May 14 AM: Jane Heikoop, Jenna Boerkoel, Kristin Bazen

PM: Kim Boerkoel, Trudy Rozeboom, Trevor Schipper

May 18, Ascension Day: Ellen Vander Boon, Ruth Hoogmoed

May 21 AM: Janelle Walma, Silvia Boerkoel, David Barnard

PM: Laura Kersten, Lauren Boerkoel, Anastasia George

Youth Group

- **May 14:** Singalong Bob Boerkoel's house
- **May 28:** Singalong Hoogmoed's house

Family Visitation

- **May 9:** Darci Vander Boon
- **May 11:** Walter Rozeboom family
- **May 23:** Bob Boerkoel family

Announcements

- Congratulations to Nathan and Allison Kelderman on the birth of Mathew Robert. *"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD"*, Psalm 127: 3.
- Congratulations to Bobby and Emily (Huisjen) Vander Boon who were united in holy matrimony Friday evening. *"The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion"* Psalm 134: 3.
- GCA is accepting applications for teaching positions for the '23-'24 school year and is looking for educators convicted to teach from a Reformed perspective, grounded in the Word of God, passionate about helping students learn, and in agreement with our core beliefs (<https://gcagr.org/our-beliefs/>). We are interested in part or full time teachers for upper elementary grades (4 - 6), and high school math, Physics, and/or Phys Ed. Contact Mr. James Bazen for more details and an application: (jim.bazen@gcagr.org).

- There will be a bridal shower for Anna VanderBoon (Jeremy Johnson), Emily Quist (Darren VanderBoon), and Morgan Ybema (Ben Kwekel) Saturday, June 10 at 8:30 am.

Meditation

Joel 3:14-16 The day of the LORD

We saw in the previous verses how the enemies of God and His people, the Gentiles, run into the LORD's hand. What they have devised as evil against God's people will be reversed by the LORD. They will meet their Judge and His righteous judgment.

So, we read in Joel 3:14, *"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision."* The Hebrew word used here for *"multitude"* also carries with it the idea of disturbance, commotion, or tumult. Joel paints before our eyes a picture of a valley full of troops. Twice in this verse, the valley is called the valley of decision. After careful and thorough consideration, the LORD has reached His decision, and the execution of judgment will soon be set in hand. The nations decided against the LORD, the LORD now decides against them. Joel continues, *"The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining."* The whole earth and all its inhabitants are involved in this decision and the righteous judgment that follows. The sun and the moon withdraw their light. Previously the locusts were a harbinger of this darkness and the coming Day of the LORD. In Joel 2:30-31, the prophet prophesied about the coming Day of the LORD and announced, *"And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come."*

Then the time comes that the LORD speaks (Joel 3:16), *"The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake."* What a day this is... On this day, the LORD executes his righteous judgment on the entire creation. Heaven and earth will tremble because of His thundering voice. But at the same time, that day is the moment of final deliverance for God's people. As we read in Joel 2:32, *"Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered."* That deliverance is in Mount Zion. In other words, the roaring voice of the Lord is also a place of refuge. (Nahum 1:2 and 4).

We know how Jesus died outside the walls of Jerusalem. God poured out His wrath over the sin of the world on His own Son. Those who call on His name will be redeemed in the coming great day of the Lord. God will not judge sin twice. Do we know that our sins are forgiven, and our sin is taken away through Jesus Christ? Do we believe in Him? What a comfort, *"but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."* Rev. J. Th. Pronk