

PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH

May 14, 2023; All this the Lord willing

May 16: Consistory Meeting, 7:00

May 17: Titus 2, 7:00 (last meeting until September)

May 18: Ascension Day service, 7:00

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

Collection Schedule

Today: General CEF

May 18, Ascension Day: Family Camp

May 21: General Building

Nursery Schedule

Today AM: Jane Heikoop, Jenna Boerkoel, Barb Meeuwse

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

May 28 AM: Kate Klaasen, Charity Vander Boon, Anna Pronk

PM: Monica Bazen, Gloria Vander Boon, Anna Vander Boon

Youth Group

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

Family Visitation

- **May 23:** Bob Boerkoel family
- **May 30:** Brian Dykema family
- **June 1:** Jonathon Brands
- **June 6, 7:00:** Faith Vander Boon family
- **8:00:** Don Vander Boon family

Announcements

- Upcoming birthdays: Jane Mast, May 22; Donna Noble, May 30. *"Cast me not off in the time of old age, forsake me not when my strength faileth." Psalm 71:9*
- The youth group leaders have a brief itinerary for the youth group trip to Canada from July 24 to July 29. If you haven't seen the itinerary yet, ask them for a copy. Please tell the youth group leaders by May 28 if you plan to attend the trip.
- Contribution boxes will be available in the church basement until May 28 for a bridal shower for Anna VanderBoon (Jeremy Johnson), Emily Quist (Darren VanderBoon), and Morgan Ybema (Ben Kwekel) to be held Saturday, June 10 at 8:30 am.

Meditation

Joel 3:17 *"Ye shall know that I am the LORD your God."*

We heard how Joel prophesied about the Day of the LORD. It is the day when the LORD executes judgment and thereby shows who He is, that He may be honored! We see in Joel 3:1-17 poignantly described that our view of God depends on our relationship with Him (compare Psalm 18:25-28). On the one hand, there is judgment; heaven and earth will tremble at God's voice. On the other hand, the Lord's roaring voice is also a refuge.

This culminates in the people of the Lord confessing the LORD as their God. We read in verse 17, *"So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more."* We came across a similar prophecy in Joel 2:27, *"And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed."* This first confession of the people of Israel resulted from the salvation and blessing of God's people. This second confession resulted from God's judgment on the enemies. We see Israel coming to her purpose and praising and honoring God. They exalt His Name. We read how Jerusalem is filled with holiness because God is present. He is present in the confession of the people of Israel. He is present in their hearts and souls. He is present in their lives. But most importantly, He is present with His Spirit (Joel 2:28-32). This coming to their goal of God's people is entirely God's own work. It is His Son, the LORD of Righteousness, who works atonement. It is the Spirit who is poured out. It is the Lord who rules sovereignly. How great is God's mercy to rebellious and sinful people.

The strangers will no longer profane Jerusalem. The Lord then dwells in Zion. Zion in the New Testament is a picture of God's people from Jew and Gentile. It is the bride of Christ, who will descend from heaven as the new Jerusalem. The Lord dwells on His mountain, where He will provide. The mountaintop stands unshaken and overlooks the valley of judgment. There is hope for Israel as the old covenant people of God, but there is hope for all of God's people. In a way, this prophecy is already being fulfilled now, in our time. There is a worldwide church of Jews and Gentiles, praising God's Name. But we are waiting for a further and fuller fulfillment, and we are waiting for the fullest fulfillment when the Lord Jesus will return on the clouds of heaven. What a day that will be. *"Come, Lord Jesus." Rev. J. Th. Pronk*