March 9, 2025

Order of Worship

Song Service - 5:50 PM
Psalter 66:1, 2, 4
Psalter 252:1, 2, 4

Morning Worship – 9:30 AM Silent Prayer	Evening Worship - 6:00 PM Silent Prayer
Votum and Salutation*	Votum and Salutation*
Psalter* 262	Psalter* 112:2, 3, 4
Reading of the Law	Reading of Scripture
Reading of Scripture	Psalter 94:1, 3, 4
Psalter 297	Apostles' Creed
Prayer	Prayer
Psalter* 215:1, 2, 3, 4	Psalter* 47:1, 7, 8, 9
Sermon	Sermon
Prayer	Prayer
Psalter* 378	Psalter* 48:1, 2, 3, 4
Benediction*	Benediction*
Doxology - Psalter* 196	Doxology - Psalter* 374:1, 5

*Please stand if you are able.

Sermon: The Serpent and the Son Sermon:

He for Me

Scripture/Text: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21 Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Text: Isaiah 53:4-6

Church Family

Homebound:

Mrs. Rieka Bouwer (Kok) Mrs. Joyce Kik (Cummings) Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Betty Kooyers Mrs. Marilyn Nederveld (Elzinga) Mrs. Esther Richards (Faasse) Mr. Teunis VanderGraaf

Remember in Prayer:

Jonathan Carlson Mrs. Judy Kwekel Mrs. Jo Maartense Mr. Jerry Phillips Mr. Bob Timmer Mrs. Jan Van Grouw

Calvin & Sarah Vlietstra were blessed with a baby boy, *Wyatt Daniel,* this past Wednesday, March 5. Everyone is doing well.

I would like to thank the congregation for all of the prayers, cards, visits, and other love shown to me in the recent weeks since Bas passed away. Janny Van't Voort

Consistory Members

Elders:	Jason Beeke (Chairman)	District 5
	Ron VanderBoon (Vice-Chair)	District 1
	Henk Kleyn (Clerk)	District 3
	Dr. David Kranendonk	District 3
	Larry Roelofs	District 4
	Dick Spaans	District 2
Deacons:	Ty Joseph (Chairman)	District 3
	Dan Roelofs (Vice-Chair)	District 5
	Tyler Prince (Treasurer)	District 4
	Kenny Remijn (Secretary)	District 2
	Kevin Walkotten (Asst. Treas.)	District 1

Calendar

"The Lord willing" James 4:15

March 11 (Tuesday) 9:45 AM Morning Ladies Bible Study.

March 11 (Tuesday) 6:45 PM Consistory Meeting. We will meet in the boardroom at PRTS.

March 12 (Wednesday) 7 PM Prayer Day Service/Mid-Week Preparatory Service led by Dr. David Kranendonk.

March 14 (Friday) 6 PM Youth Group.

March 15 (Saturday) 2 PM Neighborhood Outreach.

March 16 (Sunday) 2 PM & 3 PM Jail Services at Kent County Jail.

March 18 (Tuesday) 7 PM Evening Ladies Bible Study.

March 20 (Thursday) 6:45 PM Elders Meeting. We will meet in the consistory room at church.

Other News

- The Heritage Voices Choir will present a spring concert on Friday, March 28 at 7:30 PM. The concert will take place at Heritage Reformed Church. More information will be provided in the coming weeks. We hope you can join us!
- FRC/HRC Office-Bearers Conference: This year's conference is planned for Saturday, March 29, 2025 in the Heritage Reformed Church of Burgessville in Ontario, D.V. Our speakers are Mr. Ray Pennings and Dr. David Van Brugge with the theme – The Word in a Biblically Illiterate World. *Please see the bulletin board for more details*.
- Hamilton Annual: The Hamilton FRC Youth Group invites all youth 15+ to our annual on April 4 and 5. Friday starts at 7 PM, with a speech by Pastor Bilkes on Vanity Fair: Keys to Navigate our World. This will be followed by food, games, and fellowship. Saturday will start at 10 AM for breakfast and opening. We will then head to Cambridge for a Riddle Scavenger Hunt. Friday night will cost \$10 and Saturday dinner will be provided with additional cost. There will also be a hymn-sing at church at 7 PM open to all ages. Registration link: https://forms/gle/qVV972kVNoZaQhUx5

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. As he spake these words, many believed on

him.

John 8:28-30

Congregational Life

- Today, Dr. Michael Barrett will lead our morning worship service, and Student Dan Schipper will lead our evening worship service. This evening, we will have a preparatory message for the observance of the Lord's Supper, which will take place in our midst next Sunday morning. Those who are full or associate members may sit at the Lord's Table. Regular attendees and visitors who are confessing members in a recognized church, desiring to partake of the Lord's Supper with us for the first time, are asked to meet briefly with the consistory after our mid-week preparatory service this coming Wednesday evening.
- Next week, Dr. David Kranendonk will lead our morning worship service, and Dr. Jerry Bilkes will lead our evening worship service.
- The Sunday School & Catechism classes Psalter of the month for March is **Psalter 47:1 & 8**.
- The Adult Sunday School class will meet in the sanctuary after the service this morning. Mr. Reece Gordon will lead the class today.
- There will be a *Prayer Day Service* led by Dr. David Kranendonk on **Wednesday, March 12 at 7 PM**. This will also be our mid-week preparatory service for the Lord's Supper.
- *From the Consistory:* At our membership meeting this past Wednesday, the congregation voted to extend a call to Dr. Ian Macleod to be our pastor and teacher. We have asked for his answer by March 26. Please pray that the Lord would make His will known for Pastor Macleod and for us as a congregation.
- From the Dorcas Guild: Our project for the month of March is collecting items for Kids Food Basket. Items needed are: Pudding Cups, Fruit Cups or Pouches (no foil tops), Pretzel, Cheez-it, or Goldfish bags (1.5 oz or smaller), Meat Sticks (0.28 oz or 0.5 oz), Quart-size zip-lock bags. You may place your donations in the bin in the narthex. Thank you!

Meditation

THE GATEWAY TO ETERNAL LIFE

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:14-15

Under the cover of darkness, the Lord Jesus engaged in an interview with Nicodemus. Christ instructed the most distinguished teacher of His day concerning the truths necessary for salvation. In the course of the conversation, Jesus made this message very plain: No one will ever see or enter the kingdom of God apart from a supernatural change of heart. Jesus instructed that the new birth was a necessity, a requirement as sacred as it is divine. Nicodemus was puzzled and perplexed. The educated theologian had never understood the necessity or significance of the birth that is from above. At the time of this interview, Nicodemus was still without the most valuable and necessary grace.

Christ continued His rich instruction. He taught Nicodemus more deeply regarding the fundamental requirements necessary to attain eternal life. The Lord Jesus expressly emphasized the necessity of His atoning sacrifice. There is an inseparable link between the cross of Christ and eternal life. Referring to the following Old Testament narrative (Numbers 21:4-9), Christ pointed to the Son of man lifted up on the cross as the Gateway to eternal life.

The Israelites were in the 39th year of their wanderings in the desert. They had reached a somewhat more pleasant region for travelling. The end of their wearisome march appeared to be in sight. However, they met with another disappointment. The king of Edom refused Moses's request to let the Israelites go through his country. Understandably, this refusal was rather discouraging, for it meant an extension of weary wilderness travelling. However, Israel's rebellion was uncalled for. Ungratefully, the people loathed the precious manna so faithfully provided by their covenant God. They shamelessly murmured against God and against Moses. The Lord's anger was kindled against His Israel. Their rebellion was severely punished. Fiery serpents were sent among the people as messengers of God's displeasure. The poisonous sting of serpents caused high fevers and resulted in death. Many were mortally wounded and died.

In their distress, the contrite Israelites requested that Moses intercede for them. After Moses's prayer, the Lord revealed His mercy and provided a remedy. A brazen serpent was erected on a pole. The bitten Israelites were told to look to this divinely appointed remedy. Whoever looked was instantly healed. If Moses had not lifted up the brazen serpent, inevitably they all would have perished. Human remedies were of no avail. There was only one cure: the divine remedy, the serpent lifted up at God's command.

The serpent of brass was pointing forward to the cross of Christ. God's remedy revealed in the crucified Redeemer is *the* Gateway to eternal life. Each person belonging to the human race has rebelled against his Maker and is guilty and without excuse before God. Our proud hearts may come with subtle objections to this truth. However, we all, like sheep, have gone astray, and apart from the cross of Christ we will perish.

To be continued...

Rev. Gerald Hamstra

Sermon Notes

Nursery			
Today	Baby	Toddler	
Morning	Stephanie Vlietstra Hannah Baum	Ellynne Prince Hope Roelofs	
Evening	Bethany Carlson	Quincy Remijn	
Next Week	Baby	Toddler	
Morning	Cheryl Moerdyk Rose Roelofs	Jen Klaasen Hannah Roelofs	
Evening	Sara Bonner	Kennedy Remijn	

Ushers			
	Morning	Evening	
Today	Josh Scholten	Josh Nagelkerke	
Next Week	Matt Bazen	Shane DeMeester	

Offerings		
Today	General	Education
Next Week	General	Building

Please send material for the bulletin to Jamie Beeke by noon on Thursday: 616.299.3369 or jlbeeke@yahoo.com

The Banner of Truth Radio Broadcast, sponsored by our church, can be heard every Sunday on WFUR 1570 AM / 92.9 FM at 9:30 AM

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