

Harvest Community this week

This Lord's Day, May 31

9a – Bible Class for all ages

10a – Worship. Heb 3:7-13; Rev 19; Gen 24:1-9, pt2. Greeting—Bob Hilbelink, Nursery—Gretchen Baugh

6p – Worship. Ps 135:1-2; Jer 5; Rom 8:31-32. Greeting—De Groots, Leading—Craig De Haan, Nursery—Coopers

Wednesday, June 3

7p – Prayer Meeting, Psalm 37:10-20; Elders' Meeting immediately following

Next Lord's Day, June 7

9a – Bible Class for all ages

10a – Worship. Heb 3:14-19; Rev 20; Gen 24:10-28. See new monthly schedule for volunteer duties.

11:30a – Fellowship Meal

6p – Worship. Ps 135:3-6; Jer 6; Rom 8:33-34; Lord's Supper. See new monthly schedule for volunteer duties.

You may contact Harvest by phone (712-395-0983), email (church@harvestoc.net), or post (209 1st St. NE, OC, Iowa, 51041).

If you would like information, prayer, counsel, or some other assistance please contact one of our elders:

Mark Fedders (712-441-5096, mark@harvestoc.net)

James Hakim (712-395-0983, james@harvestoc.net)

Bob Hilbelink (712-441-3925, bob@harvestoc.net)

Gary Vander Hart (712-722-2597, garyvh@harvestoc.net)

<http://harvestoc.net>

The Lord's Day, May 31, 2009

“Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.”

Genesis 24:1

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”

Romans 8:31-32

Morning Worship Assembly, 10a.m.

STANDING Call to Worship – Hebrews 3:7-13 (Pew Bible, p1002)

As we've been hearing, Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, and King in Christian congregational worship. Perhaps you've wondered how Jesus can be our Preacher, when it's a sinful, mistake-making man who's up front talking. And the answer is because a faithful preacher doesn't just get up and say what he wants to say; he says what the Bible says.

Did you catch that at the beginning of v7? The Holy Spirit says. Heb 4:7 will identify the writer as David, but here in 3:7 it can say that it is the Holy Spirit who says it. This is because, as 2Pet 1:21 says, the men who wrote Scripture were carried along by the Holy Spirit like a boat is carried by wind and current when it has no oars or sails.

This is why our hearts are so important in worship: in it we hear the very words of God!

Notice that this is especially true in corporate worship. Even the Psalm being quoted (95) is a Psalm specifically about congregational worship. Its "today" is the Sabbath day, and as long as we keep having such "todays" we need to exhort one another every day. But again, this is something that takes place especially in congregational worship, particularly as we sing the Spirit-filling words of Christ together (Eph 5:18-19, Col 3:16).

Let us then exhort one another, "today," singing, praying, reading, and hearing with soft, good, believing hearts!

STANDING Song – #303, Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

STANDING Song – #146, Break Thou the Bread of Life

STANDING Prayer for Help

Serial Reading – Revelation 19 (Pew Bible, p1039)

vv1-5, This chapter bursts forth with some of the most glorious praise in the whole Bible. As a response to what? As a response to God's wrath! If you and I don't have reflex-response of praise to the idea of God's wrath, it's because we don't yet value Him as we ought in our hearts. But the day is coming when we shall, and we will delight in how perfectly just God's wrath is, and how completely vindicated is the value of His once-despised glory!

vv6-10, The flipside to this is how perfectly just even His grace is. We see that none who are glorified with Him have a particle of sinfulness left in them. They are fully clothed with righteous deeds (cf. Matt 22:1-14), though even these were given to them as a gift (v8).

vv11-21, Finally, from the marriage of the Lamb, we back up to see the last battle in slow motion. We see Jesus in all His glory as a Warrior, but if you blink between v19 and 20, you miss the actual battle—so gloriously powerful is Christ's victory. And what does He use to win that victory? His word—that same word through which He made the world, by which He upholds it, and with which He saves and sanctifies His people... glorious Word!

STANDING Song – #271, Sing Choirs of New Jerusalem

Congregational Prayer

The 'congregational prayer' is a prayer in which the entire congregation joins the leader in thought, feeling, and decision (mind, heart, and will). The following are our congregations current 'public' requests:

- Harvest's worship, evangelism, discipleship, elders, teachers, parents; officer training and election
- The church around the world—especially the persecuted church, the PCA, our Presbytery, our children
- Our visitors, our community, our country, the world.
- Celestin—family, ministry to Muslims, efforts to help Congolese Presbyterians with farming
- MTW, SAT-7, MERF, ITEM, Gideons, Gospel for Asia, and other world mission works
- Adam and Kim Doughan – expecting, end of June
- Robin – God's grace, mercy, and peace for everyone involved; health issues
- Kessedi Hakim – recovery from tonsil removal surgery
- Heather Hakim – twins due end of November
- Maggie Laverman's grandmother – declining health
- Brother in law of JoAnn Vander Plaats and Darlene Fedders—bladder cancer
- Marlo and Darlene's friend with bone cancer
- The Rowenhorst Family—Randy's falls increasing, subsequent injuries
- Carla Van Essendelft's pregnancy
- Jacob De Groot – air national guard basic training
- Jonathan Vander Plaats – in Africa on mercy mission
- Ron De Groot – looking for work, physical and spiritual progress, Christian friends

If you have something for which you would like the congregation to pray, please tell an elder or leave your written request in the offering box.

STANDING Morning Sermon Text – Genesis 24:1-9, pt2 (Pew Bible, p17)

Morning Sermon – The Usefulness of Marriage

Last week from this text, we learned that marriage is of paramount significance, because it is about glorifying God by imaging Him as Creator and delighting in His goodness as Provider. This week we learn that marriage is also very useful because God uses it to reproduce those who will enjoy Him forever.

Notes:

STANDING Song – #719, A Christian Home

STANDING BENEDICTION

(This concludes the worship service)

STANDING Announcements

STANDING Parting Song – #731, Doxology

PLEASE STAY FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE—LET US GREET AND WELCOME ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST!

Evening Worship Assembly, 6p.m.

STANDING Call to Worship – Psalm 135:1-2 (Pew Bible, p519)

All creatures should praise Yahweh, but particularly those who uniquely belong to Him—those who have His memorial name, who have been made His special servants, who have been called to His house to gather for His worship, who have been given approach via His courts.

And how much more every one of these things is true for us who have the ultimate fulfillment of them through Christ! Let's praise Yahweh!

STANDING Song – #12, Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim

STANDING Prayer for Help

Serial Reading – Jeremiah 5 (Pew Bible, p632)

The severity of Judah's coming judgment (vv6, 9-10, 14-17) is needed because of how complete her state of spiritual deadness is. Even those who speak the right words (v2a) have the wrong hearts (v2b). The poor and spiritually uneducated (vv3-4) are no more guilty of this than the wealthy and spiritually educated (v5).

This spiritual state can especially be seen in the morality of the youth (vv7-8).

How did this come about? They denied the truth about God's sure and coming wrath (v12), and despised anyone who would preach such a truth (v13). They forgot the great doctrine of God as Creator (v22) and sovereign Sustainer (v24) of the universe.

What did they get, instead of the saving God's instruction about holiness, and wrath, and creation, and sovereign providence? A FALSE church (v31a-b), that the people LOVED (v31c), but will bring them to RUIN in the end (v31d)!

There is only one God and only one Mediator, and these oft-despised doctrines are His. You cannot have salvation without Him, and you cannot have salvation without them. For the sake of Christ's perfect obedience and sacrifice, may God our Savior give us Himself and not the preferred idols of the day.

God keep us from ruin! God grant that we would love His law, fear His wrath, respect the preaching of His Word, honor Him as Creator, and thank Him as Sustainer. Such religion can only come by grace through faith in Christ, and always comes when by grace there is genuine faith in Christ!

STANDING Song – #457, Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

The Evening Prayer

Calling upon God together is an essential part of the worship gatherings of God's people. Let's give our minds and hearts as we are led in bending our wills before God in prayer.

^{STANDING} **Evening Sermon Text – Romans 8:31-32** (Pew Bible, p944)

Evening Sermon – God IS For Us!

The last several verses have shown that the presence of spiritual life in us isn't the result of some herculean effort on our part, but is in reality evidence of an amazing fact: GOD IS FOR US. The Father is for us, the Son is for us, the Spirit is for us. Can you imagine ever being discouraged or depressed as you cling to such a thought? And should you ever doubt it, here is the greatest demonstration of that fact: the cross of Jesus Christ.

Notes:

^{STANDING} **Song – #691, It Is Well with My Soul**

^{STANDING} **Song – #44, How Great Thou Art**

^{STANDING} **BENEDICTION**

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} **Parting Song – #44, chorus only, “Then sings my soul...”**

Immediately following worship, all are invited to a Lord's Day after-party at the Hakims' (217 3rd St. NW). If you would like to host an after-party some week, let an elder know, so that we can announce it in this space in the worship booklet; thanks!

Congregational Announcements

DON'T FORGET THE ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE SCHEDULE ON THE BACK OF THE WORSHIP BOOKLET! ... FELLOWSHIP MEAL AND LORD'S SUPPER NEXT WEEK!!

SATURDAY, JUNE 27—OFFICER EXAMS AND ANNUAL MEETING. Please mark your calendars for that day. Officer exams will be first, so that the elders can announce the approved candidates as part of the business of the meeting.

FRIDAY, JULY 31—OFFICER ELECTION AND CELEBRATION. When the congregation votes, we are not choosing the men we want but recognizing, *according to the Bible*, the men God has given us. Appropriately then, we will have some kind of celebration (cookout? bonfire? details to come) immediately following.

THERE IS AN OFFERING BOX ON THE RESOURCE TABLE by which you may bring the tithes and offerings that we offer as we come to worship God through Jesus, our great High Priest (Heb 7).

Community Announcements

Arlyn Schaap Retirement Celebration--The Staff of Orange City Christian School cordially invites you to celebrate Arlyn Schaap's years of service and leadership in Christian education. An open house will be held on Sunday, May 31 at the OCCS gym from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Stop by to thank Arlyn for his dedication to Christian education and wish him well in his retirement.

The Living Water Community Church invites you to an open house on June 4, from 4p-8p, 1005 8th St. SE (on Hwy 10).