

Harvest Community this week

This Lord's Day, July 5

9a – 'War of Words' Bible Class for all ages

10a – Worship. Heb 4:14-16; Mark 1:21-2:12; Gen 24:10-28; the Lord's Supper.

12p – Fellowship Meal

6p – Worship. Ps 137:4-6; Jer 10; Rom 9:1-5. Gary Vander Hart leading.
Afterparty at James and Heather Hakim's

Wednesday, July 8

7p – Prayer Meeting, Psalm 39; elders' meeting immediately following

Next Lord's Day, July 12

9a – 'War of Words' Bible Class for all ages

10a – Worship. Heb 5:1-8; Mark 2:13-3:21; Gen 24:29-58

6p – Worship. Ps 138:1-2; Jer 11; Rom 9:6-13. Mark Fedders leading.
Afterparty at Gary and Jean Vander Plaats'

July Servants' Rotation: Greeting—Coopers; Coffee—Marlo Fedders family; Nursery—Bob; Cleaning—Van Essendelft family

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:**

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The Lord's Day, July 5, 2009

“And he said, ‘O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham.’”

Genesis 24:12

“For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.”

Romans 9:3

Welcome, Announcements, and Preparation

Call to Worship – Hebrews 4:14-16 (Pew Bible, p1003)

Here is the glorious mystery of Christian worship: because our priest is in Heaven it takes place in Heaven. But this begs the question: ought not we, who are sinners, come in abject terror to such worship? Not at all! For the very Priest through whom we come not only perfectly represents us, but sinlessly represents us. Through Jesus, we sinners come confidently even to the throne of Heaven, for in His sinless mediation for us, we know it to be a throne of merciful and gracious help!

^{STANDING} Song – #18, *You Holy Angels Bright*

^{STANDING} Song – #2, *O Worship the King*

Where else could we get songs that ought to be sung behind the veil of Heaven, but the Psalter? Through Jesus, we approach the glorious throne using these paraphrases of Psalms 104 and 148. And yet the tunes are triumphant because we enter into such glory not cowering and hesitant but joyful and confident in Christ!

^{STANDING} Prayer for Help

God has been so generous and gracious to us that He has provided more even than Christ's personal mediation in glory. He has promised and provided His own Holy Spirit by whose aid we might worship in Spirit and truth. Let us pray now, through Christ, for His Spirit!

^{UNISON} Serial Reading – Mark 1:21-2:12 (Pew Bible, p836)

1:38 gives us one of those "this is why" statements. This is very important, because it keeps us from seeing Jesus' healings and assuming that their point is that the church should open up a hospital and a soup kitchen. Jesus' preaching is His primary mission at this point. What preaching? The preaching of the good news of the kingdom's arrival, which calls for repentance (1:15).

Indeed, the point of this morning's reading is that this isn't just anyone announcing the coming of the kingdom; it's the King Himself! His teaching comes with Kingly authority (v22), which He also demonstrates over all diseases and demons (1:23-39), over the uncleanness of sin (1:40-45), and even over its guilt (2:1-12)!

How must we respond to this Jesus with whom Mark has flung us face to face? With awe, worship, submission, repentance, faith, obedience, and joy!

^{STANDING} Song – #141, *God, in the Gospel of His Son*

^{STANDING} Song – #647, *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

Let us respond by singing our joy that the good news that Jesus Himself preached is aimed directly at our own sin and misery. Let us sing our hope for grace to respond aright. Let us sing the sweetness of Christ's name in our ears, in our hearts, and on our lips!

Congregational Prayer

We know our complete dependence upon God's mercy and help, and we therefore have many praises and requests to make before Him. Since we are invited to make them known to Him, let us all give heart, mind, and will as we are led in prayer.

^{STANDING} Morning Sermon Text – Genesis 24:10-28 (Pew Bible, p17)

Morning Sermon – *Kindness, Diligence, Strength, Endurance, Hospitality*

The servant had laid out a fleece—an impossible one at that—and it came exactly to pass. And yet here he is gazing intently to find out if she's the one. What's he looking for? As we look on with him, this is what we see: kindness, diligence, strength, endurance, and hospitality. We'll consider each of these in turn, including suggestions for how to cultivate them, before identifying their only true source.

^{STANDING} Song – #335, *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

As we have heard of our need for the Spirit to produce Christ-likeness in us, so let us sing.

The Lord's Supper

^{STANDING} Song – #225, *Once in Royal David's City*

We have remembered Christ, as we have eaten His farewell meal. Let us also now remember Him in song.

^{STANDING} Benediction

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} Parting Song – #731, *Doxology*

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

Welcome, Announcements, and Preparation

Call to Worship – Psalm 137:4-6 (Pew Bible, p521)

In v3 a Babylonian captor had requested a song of Zion. But the songs of God's people were not to be entertainment ditties. They were Yahweh's own songs, to be sung for Him in the assemblies of His people, recognizing that in corporate relationship with Him is our greatest joy—a joy that cannot be replicated simply by playing its soundtrack! But this IS our very joy as we gather now to Him through Christ. What a glorious thing is congregational worship—let us praise Him!

^{STANDING} Song – #265, Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Just as Israelites gloried in return from exile, how much more shall we who are in Jesus glory in His victorious resurrection! Come, ye faithful, let's raise this strain!

^{STANDING} Prayer for Help

Let us then pray for our great God's gracious aid to praise His greatness and grace!

^{UNISON} Serial Reading – Jeremiah 10 (Pew Bible, p638)

vv1-16, Idols are so pathetic that we needn't fear them and mustn't trust them. Yahweh, on the other hand, is so infinitely powerful that it is insanity not to fear Him and perfect security to have Him as our portion and inheritance.

When these ideas properly combine in our hearts, we are grateful for God's corrective discipline (vv19b, 24), because we trust that our way is in Him and that He is directing our steps (v23).

And yet is this discipline very painful (vv17-19a, 20), particularly when it includes being given into the hands of foolish and ungodly leadership (v21) and devastatingly ruthless enemies (v22). When such is the discipline we receive, yet we can hope both in God's justice, and in His saving purpose in bringing us into special relationship with Himself (v25).

^{STANDING} Song – #496, Kind and Merciful God, We Have Sinned

^{STANDING} Song – #94, How Firm a Foundation

So, let us sing our confession of sin, confidence in Christ, and desire to be sanctified in our distresses and refined in our trials.

The Evening Prayer

As we have heard of the greatness of God's majesty and mercy, His wrath and His grace, His holiness and power to make us holy... as we have come face to face with our complete dependence upon Him in the Lord Jesus Christ, so let us now express that dependence together as we are led in the evening prayer.

^{STANDING} Evening Sermon Text – Romans 9:1-5 (Pew Bible, p945)

Evening Sermon – Sorrow for Those Stuck in the Shadows

Our text makes a gut-wrenching statement about Paul's feelings toward unbelieving Jews. The source of this anguish isn't just their lost condition, but the fact that they possess everything else one could spiritually want, except the one that matters: Jesus Himself.

This begs the questions of our own hearts: are we courageous enough to face the reality that there are people—people in “good” churches—who have all these things that the Jews had, but who do not have Jesus themselves? Does our hope rest upon Jesus Christ alone, or do we rest it upon some of these other things? And are we loving enough to be in anguish over them?

^{STANDING} Song – #521, My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

^{STANDING} Song – #469, How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place

These songs capture how Christ alone can be the ground of our hope, and how our complete indebtedness to grace makes us not proud of our own salvation but longing that many others would know the same salvation to the glory of God!

^{STANDING} Benediction

(This concludes the worship service)

^{STANDING} Parting Song – #94, v1 only, How Firm a Foundation

*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 James know to put it in the worship booklet; thanks!*

Congregational Announcements

‘WAR OF WORDS’ IS THE INTERGENERATIONAL (i.e. for ALL ages) BIBLE CLASS THIS SUMMER . The psychologists are always talking about communication; but, this summer, we’ll ask and answer: **what does GOD have to say about it?** This course of 12 half-hour lessons on DVD, with accompanying discussion, is a thorough study of Scripture on how we use our mouths. Not only is this a huge practical matter in areas like our children’s discipleship, our love and faithfulness in marriage, the strength of our witness to the grace of Christ; but, **the Bible also tells us that our speech is a great battleground and proving ground for the issues of our heart**. We have a license to print as many of the discussion guides as we need. If you need **LARGE PRINT**, we can do that too. Also, if you wish to **purchase the book that teaches the same material more in depth, you can do so for \$10**—just ask Pastor James.

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.

LARGE PRINT PEW BIBLES are now available. Please pick them up from the bookshelf nearest the door, and return them there after worship, so that they are readily available for the next people who need them.

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).

Prayer Requests

- Harvest’s worship, evangelism, discipleship, elders, teachers, parents; officer training and election
- Our Presbytery, the PCA, the church around the world, particularly mission works and the persecuted church
- Our country, particularly those in high position
- 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
- Robin – God’s grace, mercy, and peace for everyone involved
- Heather Hakim – twins due end of November
- Phyllis Vanden Brink – getting medical care at Happy Siesta in Remsen
- Brother in law of JoAnn Vander Plaats and Darlene Fedders—waiting for results from bladder cancer chemo, newly discovered lung cancer
- Joel De Groot – continued recovery after successful cancer removal surgery
- Marlo and Darlene’s friend with bone cancer
- The Rowenhorst Family—Randy’s falls increasing, subsequent injuries
- Carla Van Essendelft’s pregnancy, due October
- Jacob De Groot – air national guard school in Pensacola
- Jonathan Vander Plaats – completed Africa mercy mission, safe travel home
- Ron De Groot – looking for work, physical and spiritual progress, Christian friends