

PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH

July 20, 2025; All this the Lord willing

Today: Lord's Supper

July 23: Prayer Meeting – Dave Meeuwse

July 29: Men's Fellowship Cookout 6:30PM

Aug 6: Lay Preaching Class

Offering Schedule

Today: General Building

July 27: General Mission – Schipper Family – South Africa

Nursery Schedule

Today: AM Meleah Tubergen, Jenna Boerkoel, Liam Schipper

PM Maria Verbeek, Pat Sweetman, Mya Schipper

July 27: AM Janelle Walma, Silvia Boerkoel, Joel VanderBoon

PM Kim Boerkoel, Gayle Dykema, Hudson Klaasen

Aug 3: AM Ellen VanderBoon, Barb Meeuwse, Justus Bazen

PM Anastasia George, Olivia Dykema, Joel VanderBoon

Youth Group

Tonight: Singalong at J. Schipper's home

July 27: Singalong at Pastor Pronk's home

Announcements

- The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in our midst this morning.
- Please remember in prayer Anna Boerkoel that there may be improvement in her liver function. *"And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases." Mark 1:34a*
- We give thanks that today is the birthday of Carol Ann Hines. *"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple." Psalm 27:4*
- Many thanks to the church family for the love shown us during Anna's recent hospital stay. We are so grateful for the prayers, visits, meals, and transportation for the children - the John Boerkoel family. *"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born of adversity." Proverbs 17:17*
- FRC is hosting an event at Holland State Park for young adults, 12th grade and up, Saturday, July 26 at 4:30PM. Brats and burgers are provided, please bring a snack or side to pass. Please RSVP to 616-644-2922 so they know how much food to bring.
- A Men's Fellowship Cookout is planned at Jason Klaasen's home on Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30PM.

Meditation

Silence in heaven (Revelation 8:1b)

After the encouraging vision and the rich promise of Revelation 7, we see how the Lamb opens the seventh seal. But then a curious event occurs. We read in Revelation 8:1, "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour." So, the encouraging vision is followed by a silence of roughly half an hour. We should not read too much into this time indication, for it says "about half an hour." It suggests a time period that is neither too short nor too long.

Why this silence? The first thing we should realize is that it is not that nothing happens in this silence, but that the heavenly choirs are silent and God is silent. It is silent, but in that silence we see all kinds of things happening, which are described in verses 2-5a. First, John sees how, in this impressive silence in God's throne room, seven angels receive seven trumpets, ram's horns, or shofars. Immediately preceding and following this silence, we find God's judgments. God is coming! He comes to redeem His own and defeat His enemies. He comes, redeeming and judging, delivering and punishing.

This all reminds us of the story in Joshua 6, about the fall of Jericho. Seven priests, each carrying a ram's horn, march before the ark around Jericho. Everything happens in silence, for seven days. The seventh day is different. On that day, the priests march around Jericho seven times, and after the blowing of the trumpets, all the people shout loudly, and the wall collapses. The trumpets serve as a sign of God's judgment, both punishing and redeeming at the same time.

Similarly, in Joel 2:1 and 15, where the Day of the LORD is described, we read, "Blow the trumpet in Zion." The Day of the LORD is a day of judgment as well as redemption. Who will endure that day? All who call upon the LORD and repent to God.

Likewise, in Revelation 8, during this silence, trumpets are given, and they will soon blow, after which God's judgments will be unleashed on earth. These judgments will cause the mighty walls of earthly Babylon to fall, and her place will be taken by the heavenly Jerusalem. The trumpets will herald the Day of the LORD, the great day from which no one escapes.

Are we prepared for that Day? In Jesus Christ, that Day is a day of deliverance. In Him, we do not have to fear that Day.

Rev. J.Th. Pronk