

PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH

July 27, 2025; All this the Lord willing

Today: Baptism AM

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

Aug 6: Lay Preaching Class

Aug 19: Consistory Meeting

Aug 24: Ordination Service

Offering Schedule

Today: General Mission – Schipper Family – South Africa

Aug 3: General Benevolent

Nursery Schedule

Today: 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

Aug 10: AM Roberta Hoogmoed, Anna Pronk, Carter Schipper

PM Allison Kelderman, Kristen Bazen, Tanner Klaasen

Youth Group

Tonight: Singalong at Pastor Pronk's home

Announcements

- The sacrament of baptism will be administered this morning to:
 - Willie Louise, daughter of Ben and Morgan Kwekel
 - Roberta Joan, daughter of Jon and Paula Rozeboom*"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence" Matthew 19:14-15*
- A Men's Fellowship Cookout is planned at Jason Klaasen's home on Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30PM.
- The Reformation Bible Society invites you to a conference on the canon and text of the Book of Revelation on August 2 at Cornerstone university. Visit reformationbiblesociety.org for more information.
- The ordination of Candidate Daniel Schipper as a missionary pastor will be Sunday, Aug 24 during the evening service.
- The Trinitarian Bible Society meeting is Wednesday evening, Aug 27. Pastor Pooyan Mehrshahi will speak on "Iran, the Church, and the Persian Bible."
- Family camp is Friday and Saturday, Aug 29-30 at Grace Adventures in Silver Lake.
- God's Word Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 17-18, at The Shack near White Cloud, MI. Pastor H. van den Belt will speak about the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed.

Meditation

Prayer (Revelation 8:3)

Last time, we heard about a silence in heaven and how it plays a role in the preparations for God's judgment. Trumpets are given to angels. These trumpets will be blown as an announcement of the judgments. But more happens during the silence in heaven. We learn this from verses 3-5a. In verse 3a, it says, "And another angel came and stood at the altar." Another angel appears. He stands beside the altar, which is the altar of burnt offerings. Let us remember that the earthly temple was built according to the pattern in heaven. How can we ever approach God except through the shedding of blood? Therefore, this altar points to Christ's work on earth. He is the Lamb of God who died for the sins of the world. He offered that sacrifice to His Father. The heavenly altar of burnt offering points to that.

We then read, "having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense." That angel has a censer in his hand. It is a type of pan. In the Old Testament, priests used it to bring glowing coals from the altar of burnt offerings to the altar of incense, so that the incense would produce a wonderful aroma. The altar of incense was located in the Holy Place, just in front of the curtain behind which the ark was kept. This was the place where God dwelled. Therefore, this incense was a form of glorifying God, which was pleasing to Him. We observe a similar event happening in Revelation 8. The angel takes the censer and incense he receives to the throne of the LORD and places it there, so that it will disperse a wonderful fragrance around the throne.

We then read, "that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." The angel places the prayers of the saints (all the saints!) before the throne, along with this incense. The prayers of the saints are mixed with this incense and thus come before God's throne. Why are the prayers mixed with the incense? Well, the prayers of the saints are always imperfect, but they are combined with fragrant incense and are thereby purified, cleansed, and refined. Everything points to Christ's work and His righteousness and holiness that are imputed to us, and His Spirit who prays with and for the saints.

Next time, God willing, I will share more about the prayers. For now, consider the activity in heaven and how everything is centered on earth, God's work. And at the heart of it is Christ's atoning work. What a precious thought!

Rev. J.Th. Pronk