



REFORMATION OPC  
GRAND RAPIDS

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*Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe. Heb. 12:28*

## THE LORD'S DAY DECEMBER 2, 2018

*“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)*

Meeting in the Willow Room of the Prince Conference Center  
on the campus of Calvin College  
3201 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

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# Welcome to Reformation Orthodox Presbyterian Church

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Welcome to our visitors! We are glad you are with us for worship. Reformation OPC exists for the glory of God as a confessional, Presbyterian congregation. We minister to the Calvin College community, to southeast Grand Rapids, and to the ends of the earth with the assurance that God the Father communicates the benefits of redemption to his people through his Son by the ordinary means of grace, Word, sacrament, and prayer, in the power of the Holy Spirit. As a true church, we seek to grow into the image of Christ, the crucified and risen Son of God, while waiting patiently for his return to set all things right in the new heavens and new earth.

We encourage people of all ages to remain in the sanctuary and worship with us. It is our intention to provide a nursery for those ages three and under as soon as we are able. We also are planning to celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly. These goals will be met in time as the Lord enables us.

If you need pastoral counsel or would like to join ROPC, please talk to Mr. Noe.

## Calendar and Announcements

Morning study, prayer, and song: Each Lord's day at 10 am, Willow Room East of the Prince Conference Center.

Evening Worship: Each Lord's day at 4.30 pm, Willow Room East of the Prince Conference Center.

Pizza and Theology: Wednesday evenings: pizza at 6 p.m. theology, coffee, dessert 7-8.30 p.m.; at the Noe home, 3033 Vassar St. SE. We continue the third in a 4-week series on the **Athanasian Creed**.

Fellowship Meal: First Sunday at the Noe home after evening worship. **Next meal: today!**

## Prayer Requests

### Praying for our congregation:

- pray for our congregation to grow in faith, grace, and unity
- pray for those who have ongoing struggles with doubt, discouragement, anxiety, and struggles in faith
- pray for our covenant children, that we would have the grace and humility to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
- pray for our ministry to Calvin students on Sundays and Wednesdays, that we may boldly proclaim the Word of God to them and love them graciously
- pray for those in our congregation seeking work
- for friends Dana, Brent, and Sebastian
- for students traveling and facing end-of-semester deadlines
- for the pastoral search committee, that they would have wisdom in seeking an organizing pastor for this work
- for Maralene Noe DeBoer who is in hospice for cancer
- for Ryan's friend Sarah who has terminal cancer, and her husband Alan

Our Presbytery: Harvest OPC, Wyoming, MI; Pastor Dale Van Dyke (Joanne)

Our Denomination: Committee on Ministerial Care

Church Plants: Downingtown OPC, Downingtown, PA; Gregory O'Brien (Ginger)

Foreign Missionaries: Octavius Delfils (Marie), Haiti

Community and Universal Church:

- NAPARC (North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council): Presbyterian Reformed Church
- CEIR: The Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands
- Persecuted Church: Eritrea

## Worship

### We Enter God's Presence through Christ's Sacrifice

*Prelude: Prepare to enter the gracious presence of the Triune God in order to commune with him through his means of grace.*

\*Apostolic Greeting

\*Call to Worship

\*Prayer of Invocation

\*Psalm of Approach     Praise the Lord! My Soul, O Praise Him!  
TPH146

\* The Law of God (adapted from Micah 6)

*With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?*

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

*Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?*

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you*

but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

\* Prayer of Confession with the Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, eternal Father, we acknowledge and confess to you that we were born in unrighteousness.

Our life is full of sin and transgression;  
we have not gladly believed your Word  
nor followed your holy commandments.

For your goodness' sake  
and for your name's sake,  
be gracious unto us, we pray,  
and forgive us all our sin, which is very great.

Our Father, through the redeeming death of your Son on the cross,  
by your Spirit and through your word,  
transform and renew us to follow you with joy.  
All this we ask, confident in your unchanging faithfulness,  
for we pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who taught us to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive  
our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Gloria Patri *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to  
the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is  
now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen. TPH572*

### **We Hear God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading                      Proverbs 25

Psalm of Response                            *How Shall the Young Direct Their Way?*  
TPH119B

New Testament Reading                      Matthew 21

Sermon Text:                                    Acts 15.12-29

Sermon Title:                                    The Words of the Prophets Agree

Outline

I.            The assembly fell silent (v. 12a)

II. Two kinds of testimony (vv. 12b-18)

A. signs and wonders

B. prophetic word

1. James' speech

a. the Word of God decides controversy: Amos

b. the remnant of mankind, Jews and Gentiles

III. We should not trouble those who turn to God (v. 19)

IV. The law of God and restraint on Christian freedom (v. 21)

Conclusion

**We Respond with Our Prayers and Praises**

Congregational Prayer

Response            Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord.  
                          Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.  
                          TPH 558

Offering

### **We Partake of the Covenant Meal**

\*Hymn of            *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* TPH196  
Preparation

\*Apostles' Creed TPH851

Lord's Supper

Institution

Exhortation

*Pastor*            The Lord be with you.  
People            And also with you.  
*Pastor*            Lift up your hearts.  
People            We lift them up to the Lord.  
*Pastor*            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People            It is right to give him thanks and praise.  
*Pastor prays*    It is indeed right and a good and joyful thing ...

*Pastor*            *Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels  
and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
who forever proclaim the glory of your name, saying:*

People            Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might,  
                          heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the  
                          highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the  
                          Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Distribution and reception of elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Almighty and everliving God, we sincerely thank you,  
                          that you graciously grant to feed us,  
                          who have duly received these holy mysteries,

with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood  
of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ;  
and that you assure us thereby of your favor  
and goodness towards us.

And we thank you that you have incorporated us  
into the mystical body of your Son,  
which is the blessed company of all your faithful people;  
and that by the merits of his most precious death and passion,  
we are also heirs through hope of your everlasting kingdom.  
And we humbly ask, O heavenly Father, to assist us with your grace,  
that we may continue in that holy fellowship,  
and do all such good works that you have prepared for us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom,  
with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end.  
Amen.

\*Closing            *Fill Thou My Life, O Lord My God* TPH534  
Hymn

\*Benediction

\*Doxology        *Hallelujah! Hallelujah!* TPH566

David Noe, a licentiate in the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario, is leading today's service and preaching God's Word, together with Rev. Stephen Myers, a pastor in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, who is administering the Lord's Supper and giving the Apostolic Greeting and Benediction.

### **Provisional Session Elders**

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