



Weekly Newsletter of the
Christian Reformed Church of
Perth Inc.

Welcome

A warm welcome to all who have come to the services today, and a special welcome to visitors. May the Lord bless each of us as we worship together, that His Name may be glorified and that we are encouraged and strengthened in faith. A crèche is available at the back of the building for those who wish to use it for children aged 0-4 years of age. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship after the service.

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prior to the published
Sunday date.

10:00 am: Pastor Reinier Noppers
Readings: Luke 2:1-20, John 1:1-18
Sermon: John 1:14-18 "The Word Became Flesh"



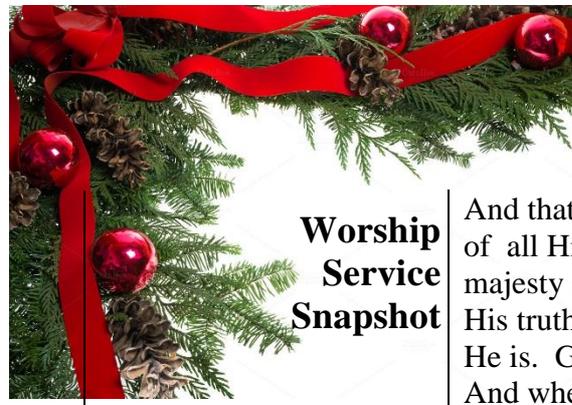
Meditation

Luke 2:13-14 ... This song is one of praise to God. These angels sang praise to God – the one whose purpose was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. They praised the God of the covenant who in His mercy and grace sent Jesus into this world to fulfil His sovereign will with respect to our salvation. It is God's praise in this season that we sing with the angels.

1. God's glory.

This entire event that took place on the hills of Bethlehem was a revelation of God's glory. The glory of God is excluded from the Christmas celebration of most today. They see the baby of Bethlehem but they forget God altogether. We, however, must know and believe that the very purpose of God in the birth of His Son was to glorify Himself. That must be our starting point when considering the birth of Jesus Christ! The angels that suddenly appeared on the hills of Bethlehem joined in singing together for that reason: to praise God. We see that in Luke 2:13: "Glory to God in the Highest", they sang. That says everything about what our attitude should be as we commemorate the conception and birth of our Saviour. The story of Christ's birth is told, not in order that we might become all fuzzy and cozy over a quaint Christmas story being told. It is told, rather, to praise God for making our salvation possible through the birth of His Son. Is that the praise that is found in your heart today?

You know, the glory of God is a striking thing! God is all glorious. Whether we choose to give God praise for His glory or not does not detract in any way from His glory. That men refuse today to acknowledge God in the birth of Christ or even mock God by mocking Christ, that does not make God less glorious. The fact is, whether man chooses to give glory to God or not makes no difference to God! It does not make Him less glorious.



Worship Service Snapshot

A typical service includes a time of singing praise to our God, an opportunity for prayer and a message is given by the Pastor. There is also a time for us to give financially. If you are not a member or regular attendee of CRC Perth, please don't feel obligated to participate in the offering.

In the morning service, children (4-9 years old) attend church for the first part of the service and leave for Sunday school during the offering.

Please utilise the church's electronic banking

Banking details:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Christian Reformed Church of Perth
BSB: 066 153 #: 1002 5589
Mark as tithe or first offering or the name of the second offering (e.g.: Diaconate)

First Offering

For the ministry of this church

Second Offering

- 25-Dec** World Transform
- 1-Jan** International Justice Mission
- 8-Jan** Committee for Social Responsibility
- 15-Jan** Target 21
- 22-Jan** RTC
- 29-Jan** Diaconate

And that is because of what God's glory is. It is the effulgence or shining forth of all His perfections – all of His virtues. It is the shining forth of God's majesty and power, of His holiness and goodness, of His grace and mercy, of His truth and righteousness. God is all of His attributes. They make up who He is. God can never be known or viewed apart from these infinite virtues. And when we look upon God, these virtues shine forth so brightly that if we were to look upon God face to face we would be consumed! He dwells in a light of glory unto which no man can approach. Especially one who is a sinner. To behold that glory of God would not only blind the sinner but destroy Him.

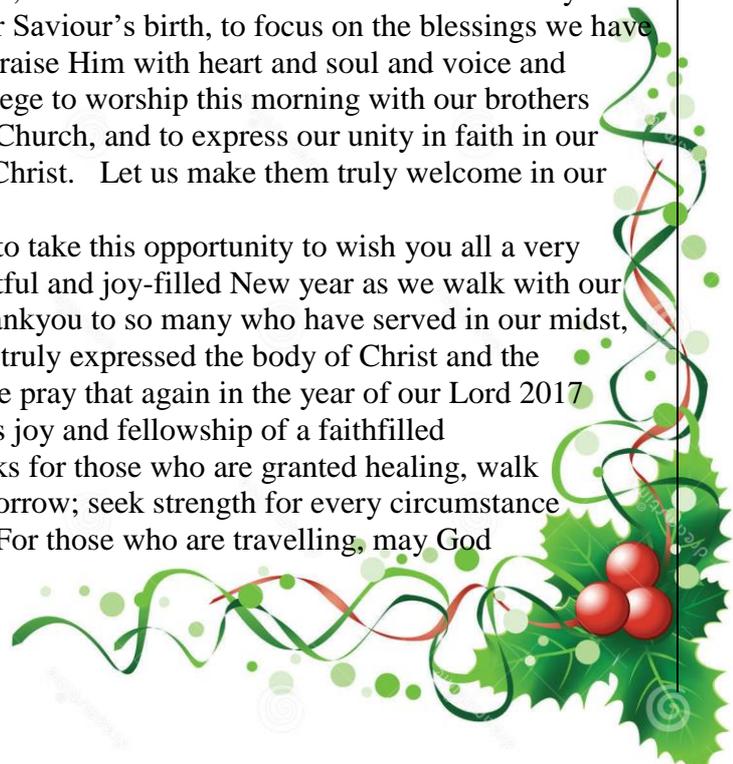
It was this glory that shone forth from the countenance of the angel that brought the message to these shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem. We read in verse 9, "An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." These angels had come down from the very presence of God, and they now reflected in but a small way the glory of God. And it made these shepherds fear and quake before them. "Fear not!" the angel had to tell the shepherds. "Do not be afraid!"

It is of this same glory that the angels now sing as they appear in the presence of these lowly shepherds. "Glory to God in the highest!" God is in the highest of all places! He sits enthroned in the heavens above the earth and sky. There in His dread majesty He rules over heaven and earth. There He directs all the events of this world, including the very moments of Christ's birth, and that in order to accomplish His goal, His purpose for all things! God is all glorious as He sits there. And the angels recognize this glory of God: "Glory to God in the highest!" That is what we sing today too! We sing it out loudly and powerfully from hearts that are overwhelmed with, consumed with, the glory and majesty of our God. (The Reformed Witness Hour; December 21, 2014)

Pastoral

Once again another year is almost over, and today we celebrate the birth of our Saviour: the wonder of God who became flesh and dwelt among us! It never ceases to amaze me that He could live among such sinful people, and yet remain gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love – and yet that is exactly who God is, as He reveals Himself to us! And so may we take the time to celebrate our Saviour's birth, to focus on the blessings we have received through Him, and praise Him with heart and soul and voice and strength! We have the privilege to worship this morning with our brothers and sisters from the Korean Church, and to express our unity in faith in our one and only Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us make them truly welcome in our midst today.

Trudy and I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a fruitful and joy-filled New year as we walk with our God together. Also a big thankyou to so many who have served in our midst, in a myriad of ways that has truly expressed the body of Christ and the community of the saints! We pray that again in the year of our Lord 2017 we will again experience this joy and fellowship of a faithfilled community, as we give thanks for those who are granted healing, walk with those who mourn and sorrow; seek strength for every circumstance and peace in every trouble. For those who are travelling, may God keep you on your holidays, through your travels,





and bring you back safe and sound.

We continue to pray for God's blessings on the Wheatbelt work, as this also slows down a bit, and that pastor Geoff may be refreshed for the new year as well.

Compassionate Catalogue update: we have already raised enough for a motorbike, which has already been forwarded, as well as almost half the cost of drilling a well and installing a pump. Praise God for such generosity, and remember, you can still contribute! Please pass donations to Trudy.

A reminder: until further notice there will be NO evening services as from today. Also, there will be NO New Year's Eve Service at Gosnells this year with it being a Saturday evening.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

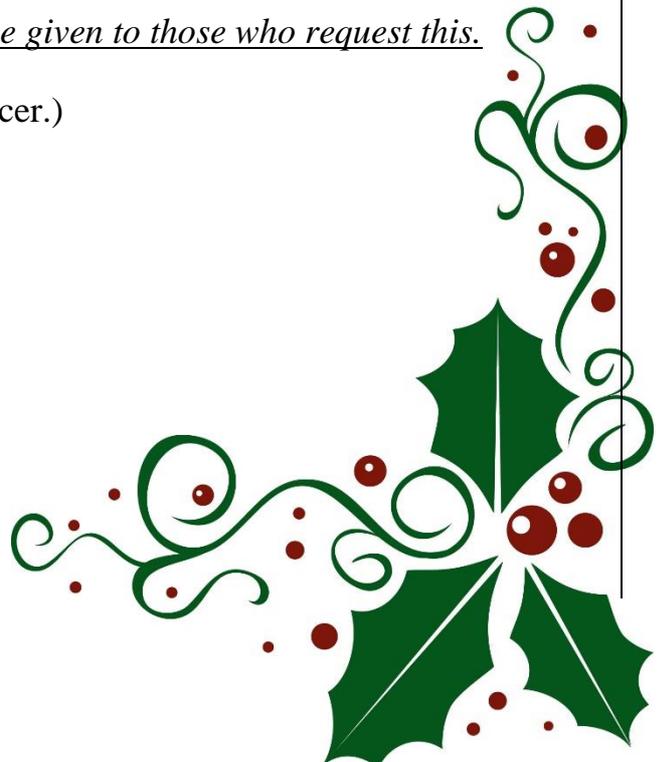
Our denominational committee for serving the needy in the two thirds world is World Transform (WT). This Christmas we are encouraging members to pray for and give towards our major development project. WT's "Heart Project" is an Integrated Tribal Development Program in Madhya Pradesh, India. The exciting feature of the Heart Project is that it integrates 'WORD' & 'DEED' more closely in the heart of India.

Components of the Project:

- Improvement in Agricultural production
- Establishment of women's self-help groups
- Links with banks – savings schemes
- Income generation schemes
- Improving community health
- Target villages to be self-sufficient after two 3 year cycles. •

Tax deductible receipts can be given to those who request this.

(Bert Kuipers – publicity officer.)



ROSTERS & UPCOMING EVENTS DECEMBER -JANUARY

If you are unable to do YOUR duty PLEASE organise someone to do it, don't just expect somebody else to do it, as they may be away like you.

	Preacher	Duty elder	Door elder	Greeter	Reader	Musician	Data	Sound	Coffee	Creche
25 th December		Bardi	Steve	Hetty	Beslin	Elsa	Paul N	Paul vdk	Husselmann, Noppers	Vanessa, Saara
1st January	R. Noppers	Sam	Bardi	Rob			Johan	Paul vdk	Morgan, Janny	Melody, Rebekah
8th January	R. Noppers	Willem	Sam	Jannet			Johan	Paul vdk	Ossevoort, Bardi	Trudy, Eliza
15th January	R. Noppers	Steve	Willem	Eril			Luke	Klarinda	Oostryck, Slooter	Annette, Joshua
22nd January	R. Noppers	Bardi	Steve	Hetty	Beslin		Luke	Klarinda	Alberts, Victor	Vanessa, Emma
29th January	G. van Schie	Willem	Bardi	Rob	Raymond		Johan	Paul vdk	P. v/d Kooij, Hetty	Saara, Bethia
5th February	R. Noppers	Sam	Willem	Jannet	Beslin		Luke	Klarinda	Assaad, Nieuwkerk	Jacqueline, Beslin
12th February		Bardi	Sam	Jacqueline	Nelson		Johan	Paul N	Husselmann, Mary	Melody, Luke
19th February	R. Noppers	Willem	Bardi	Yvonne	Jacqueline		Paul N	Nelson	Knoetze, Johan	Trudy, Klarinda
26th February	R. Noppers	Sam	Willem	Jill	Raymond		Luke	Klarinda	R.v/dKooij, Elsa	Annette, Nelson

SEEKING READERS FOR EARLY JANUARY & Musicians for JANUARY AND FEBRUARY
If you can help, speak to pastor Reinier as soon as possible.

COMING UP IN 2017

January 1st 2017 Shared Lunch
 February 5th 2017 After church Catechism Class
 February 5th 2017 Shared Lunch
 February 19th 2017 Lord's Supper

Birthdays

26th December Bernard Tampubolon

January

6th Netsai Chipere
 10th Willy Scherpenzeel
 12th Hetty Zoethout
 13th Reinier Noppers
 28th Takundra Mafungate

February

3rd Mieke Slooter

