

FUNERAL SUMMARY OF THE LATE Mr. GERALD VAN VOORST

Family and friends gathered in memory of the late Mr. Gerald Van Voorst, who passed away from this life and entered into eternity on December 21, 2017, at the age of 69 years. Reverend H. Hofman officiated the funeral service and opened with the singing of Psalter 281, followed by the reading of Isaiah 40:6-8 and James 4 starting with verse 10 through the end. Prayer was then offered, after which Reverend Hofman addressed the mourning family, noting that while he did not know Gerald personally, nor the family, it was still necessary to bring a message to them. If he himself needed to bring a comforting word to them it would be a poor hour, but as a servant of the Lord he is able to hide behind that everlasting Word that is able to comfort through the darkest hours; may the Lord grant that today. Man's word will always fall short but the word of the Lord is able to carry through. Once again the Lord has drawn the attention to Himself by taking out of the congregation another member in a sudden fashion. The family and congregation was asked if they were taking notice. It was stated that the Lord must sanctify this calling to the family and the church family. The Lord was acknowledged for giving Mr. and Mrs. Van Voorst many years together. .

The text was from the two passages, where we see a contrast:

Isaiah says all flesh is grass and James, our life is a vapor.

vs

James states that the Lord is everlasting.

The strong man's life is but a vapor. Even the Psalmist states that if we are given 70 or 80 years our life is like the flower that soon fades. Rev Hofman referred to a letter of John Newton that told of an ice castle he had seen which reminded him of what man's life is by nature. As a result of sin our life is subject to decay and the wages of sin is death. John Newton said he thought that there should have been one stone laid in the castle warning that "so goes the glory of the world". There is a Cornerstone that has been laid that never fades, and if the Lord has placed His work in our soul, then no matter what happens to the ice castle of our life, this stone will remain forever. The question was posed, "Can we appear before the Lord today?" We have just remembered the birth of Jesus. May we learn that He became flesh so that those who receive the Holy Spirit's work may live forever.

At the cemetery it was kept very brief because of the extreme cold. Rev. Hofman again warned us that we must be prepared by God's work. If our life is only an empty ice castle, nothing will remain. Gerald was honored for his service to our country by the servicemen with a 21 gun salute. Rev. Hofman then closed with the reading of the 12 articles of faith.

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*So teach us to number our days, that
we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
Psalm 90:12*

Church Times: 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.