

November 19, 2023

MEDITATIONS

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
2:30 p.m. Rev. Baan
NO Classes after the morning service
Rev. Baan serves Sioux Center this evening with a singalong and Q&A session following. All are welcome.

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 23)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service
Classes after the morning service

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Service with Rev. Baan

Advance Notices:

-December 11, 7:30 p.m. Annual congregation meeting

-The Timothy Young Adult Group of Franklin Lakes/Clifton, NJ is organizing a weekend for young adults (post-high school) on **January 4-6**, D.V. Rev. H. de Leeuw hopes to give the topic and various activities are being planned. For additional information and to register, please visit www.timothygroupnrc.org (password January2024).

-January 10, 7:00 p.m. Confession of Faith class starts
-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Prison Diary 2nd Alpha Center

Collections Received in October:

General Fund	\$4651.00
Disaster Relief	\$565.00
Alpha Center	\$667.00
Prison Diary	\$2044.00
School Fund	\$566.00

We Remember in Prayer:

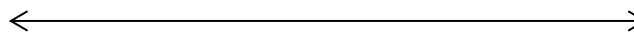
- Vonn van Beek, whose surgery this past week was successful, but may need a kidney transplant in the future.
- Mr. Norm Jongetjes, who commemorated his 77th birthday on Monday, November 13 and Mrs. Jennie Johnson, who commemorated her 72nd birthday on Tuesday, November 14.
- Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." Ps. 51:17

This week we hope to have our Thanksgiving Day. It is fitting that we acknowledge the Lord for all His many undeserved benefits. What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits to me? May the Lord give a broken heart, as the poet declares, that such a heart He will not despise. Then we will grieve about our many sins and transgressions and have true repentance. Such a heart is smitten, wounded and broken by the Word of God in the hand of the Spirit. That Word is like a hammer to break the rock in pieces. Man's vain glorying is brought low, and the sinner conquered by God's grace surrenders to God and bows so deeply before Him. A contrite spirit is bruised, or crushed under the weight of sins and that against such a holy, just, but also good doing God. The poet says, that God will not despise such sacrifices of broken and contrite hearts, and that is a wonder. It even means the opposite of despising, God will have a delight in them.

Dear friends, young and old, may we faithfully come to God's house with a heart that is humbled and that worships Him, the Giver of so many blessings, also in the past season. Did they bring you already at the feet of the Benefactor, as the one Samaritan leper came to the feet of the Lord Jesus?

For those who have come to God's House with a heart in which they cannot find a true thanksgiving offering, there is expectation. There is hope for those who are ashamed of themselves and must confess that they cannot even thank the Lord as He is worthy. For there is not only a praying, but also a thanking High Priest at the right hand of the Father, and His sacrifice has been accepted by a just and holy God Who had a delight in them. Flee to Him, and stretch your empty hands to Him, and know that because He is not only the praying, but also the thanking High Priest, Jesus Christ can by His Spirit give you such a broken, contrite heart that you may bring to Him. He has a pleasure in His own work. The prophet testifies of it in Is. 57:15," For thus saith the High and Lofty one, that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones". Those poor ones are precious in His sight. He will not turn away, will not despise their sacrifice. For in Christ's finished work, He is pleased with them.



That Christ and a forgiven sinner should be made one, and share heaven between them, is the wonder of salvation; what more could love do?
~Samuel Rutherford

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

The meaning is, I have desired it so much that in comparison I have desired nothing else. And I have sought it religiously, devoutly, by prayer, of the Lord; and I will never cease to desire it." This one thing, which he so earnestly sought for himself is thus expressed: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life.

Three main interpretations are given to this phrase, each of them having a good sense. One is that the priests lodged at or in the house of the Lord, and David is here speaking of the desirableness of their life beyond that of a king in war. On this interpretation the pious Henry says: "Disdainfully as some look upon God's ministers, one of the greatest and best kings, that ever was, would gladly have taken his lot, have taken his lodging among them"

The second supposes that David here expresses his desire to have the peace of the realm restored, that he, as had been his desire, might piously and daily frequent the house of God. This may have been all that was intended. It is as much as most commentators get from it. And pious souls have always greatly loved the house and public worship of God. But the phrase, house of the LORD, at least sometimes has a much wider scope than that of any visible structure on earth.

Therefore, a third exposition is given. This makes the dwelling in God's house to be spiritual; and to be equivalent to having Jehovah for light and salvation. In this way we get the best sense to the phrase, One thing have I desired. This certainly signifies more than the mere privilege of being a visible worshipper in the tabernacle, which David knew was soon to be followed by a glorious temple. But why may not these views be united, and we regard the Psalmist as desiring to live in that state of peace, which would allow him to frequent the house of God, there to worship in the beauty of holiness, and thus have a pledge of the protection, guidance, and blessing of Jehovah here and hereafter?

Two chief objects he had in view in this desire. One was, To behold the beauty of the LORD. To behold is not only to perceive, but to enjoy. For the beauty of the Lord, others read the pleasure, the delight, the gracious countenance, the fair beauty, the loveliness, the desirableness, the pleasantness, the cheering countenance, the amiable and glorious majesty, the excellence and sweetness, the infinite and transcendent amiableness of the Lord. So to see as to enjoy the whole of God's character as revealed in Scripture is given to none but regenerate souls. They alone have spiritual discernment. Yet though they see them supernaturally, they do it not miraculously. They enjoy these things by the Holy Spirit's blessing on the Word and ordinances of God. The other object David had in view in dwelling in God's house is thus expressed, And to inquire in his temple. To search, to make inquiry, to seek early, that is, diligently, is the real force of the original. In his temple, in his palace.

~Plumer

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done
excellent things: this is known in all the
earth.*

Isaiah 12:5

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