

April 23, 2023

“Strive to enter in.”

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Student Kleijer
6:30 p.m. Student Kleijer

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (dB #1)
6:30 p.m. Rev. Vogelaar

Catechism Books from the late Rev. den Boer are available in the back of church for each family to follow along.

House Visitations:

April 24 1st Mr. & Mrs. Jordan deWit, 2nd Brandon van Beek

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Alpha Center 2nd Kingdom Boundaries

Collections Received in March:

General Fund	\$3430.00
Living Bread	\$677.00
Disaster Relief Fund	\$343.00
Hudson Taylor	\$113.00

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, the unborn, our married couples, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

What will it be in the day of judgment to meet the inhabitants of Nineveh and to have them condemn us! They heard only Jonah, a man that had no compassion toward them. But you have heard of Christ, Who preached His Gospel unto you, Who had compassion upon the multitude, but you did not repent. What a condemnation indeed to be condemned by the men of Nineveh! Condemned and met by heathens in hell, who will ask of us: “Are you here? You had so much more than we. You heard the Gospel proclaimed, that you were dealing with a God Who had no pleasure in your death, a God Who delights in mercy. And nevertheless you are in the same place as we are!” According to Jesus’ own words, the people of Nineveh will condemn such ones. ~Rev. C. Harinck

“Enter in” – into heaven, that is the meaning, where the saved are and shall be – into heaven, that place, that glorious place where God and Christ and angels are, and the souls of just men made perfect. “Enter in:” that thing included though not expressed in the words, is called in another place the “mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the general assembly and church of the first-born which are written in heaven.” And therefore the words signify unto us that there is a state most glorious, and that when this world is ended; and that this place and state is likewise to be enjoyed by a generation of men for ever. Besides, this word “enter in” signifies that salvation to the full is to be enjoyed only there, and that there only is eternal safety; all other places and conditions are hazardous, full of snares, imperfections, temptations, and afflictions. But there all is well; there is no devil to tempt, no desperately wicked heart to deliver us up, no deceitful lust to entangle, nor any enchanting world to bewitch us, there all shall be well to all eternity. Further, all the parts of and circumstances that attend salvation, are only there to be enjoyed; there only is immortality and eternal life, there is the glory and fulness of joy and the everlasting pleasure; there is God and Christ to be enjoyed by open vision, and more, there are the angels and the saints; there is no death nor sickness, no sorrow nor sighing for ever, there is no pain, nor persecution, nor darkness to eclipse our glory. O this mount Zion! O this heavenly Jerusalem!

~ J . Bunyan

Encouragement for Seekers. Ps. 69. 32; Isa. 45. 19

Seek ye my face, the Saviour cries;
My soul, where canst thou find supplies
But in the Lamb, for sinners slain,
Who has not shed his blood in vain?

Does bitter anguish fill thy heart,
And make thee from the promise start?
Does Satan tempt thee to give up,
No more in Jesus’ name to hope?

Art thou afflicted, sore distressed,
Embarrassed and by guilt oppressed?
Anxious to know thy sins forgiven,
And find an open way to heaven?

Thou shalt obtain the blessing yet;
Jesus will not thy cries forget;
Wait on the Lord, take courage still;
His promise surely he’ll fulfil.

~H. Fowler

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Proverbs 4:18

This is a fine contrast of the Christian's path of light with the dark and dangerous path of the wicked. It is not the feeble wasting light of a taper, nor the momentary blaze of the meteor; but the grand luminary of heaven, "coming out of his chamber, and rejoicing as a strong man to run his race" (Psalms 19:5), from earliest dawn to his noon-day glory. And a beautiful sight it is, to see the Christian thus rising out of darkness; not indeed with uniform brightness, but deepening from the first faint beginning of his course; rising higher and higher; widening his circle; advancing onward with increasing brightness unto the perfect day. Knowledge, faith, love, holiness, irradiate every step. It is at first but a glimmering ray, the first dawn of day. He does not come at once into the "marvelous light." There is much — often long-continued — struggle with his own wisdom and self-righteousness. And even when brought to a simple dependence on the great work of Christ, it is long ere he sees the fitness and proportion of its several parts, providing for the honor of every perfection of God, as well as the supply of every want of man. Long also is it, ere he marks the just balance of promise and precept; the sure connection between justification and sanctification; the accurate arrangement, by which, while we are not saved by works, we cannot be saved without them; and while we work ourselves, our strength and trust is in another. Nor is it at the outset that we discern the identity of happiness with conformity to Christ, and find heaven in communion with God, and consecration to his service. Thus also, in the indistinct beginning of the course, sin lies within a narrow compass. It includes little besides the grosser enormities. Many things are thought harmless, which the spiritual law condemns. But as the line becomes more marked, old habits and associations, hitherto unsuspected, become convicted by a clearer light, and are ultimately relinquished. It is in this path that as the Christian "follows on," the eye is more unveiled (Hosea 6:3. Compare Mark 8:22-25), the heart more enlightened, the truth more vividly impressed upon the conscience, the "understanding" more quick in "the fear of the Lord," the taste more discerning between good and evil. Faith now becomes more strong in the Savior's love, more simple in the promises of God. ~Charles Bridges

Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer
Deacon: Mr. Norm DeWit

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland
Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer nrcsfsd@gmail.com
Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom
Website: nrcsf.com

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
yea, our God is merciful.
Psalm 116:5*

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