

**December 6, 2020**

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service (Advent)  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service  
**No** classes after the morning service.

*Please note that the city ordinance is still in place. Please retain a six foot distance between families.*

**This week Thursday**, the annual congregational meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Duo for deacon is Mr. Norm de Wit and Mr. Tom Johnson

Duo for elder is Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn and Mr. Rick Rozeboom

Duo for minister is Rev. Hakvoort of Norwich, ON and Rev. van Ruitenbergh of Chilliwack, B.C.

**This week Saturday**, singing for our elderly and shut-ins. Please contact a consistory member if you are interested in joining.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service (Advent)  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service  
Classes hope to resume after the morning service.

### **Advance Notices:**

- Bible Study Groups will continue to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evenings of each month.
- January singalong is pending for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.

-All the Lord willing-

**Offerings** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund    Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> School Fund                            2<sup>nd</sup> Living Bread

### **We Remember in Prayer:**

- Mr. Leonard Spaans and the Zdenek family in the passing away of their dear wife, grandmother and great grandmother.
- Mr. Zomer and others who are undergoing treatment.
- Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

## **MEDITATION**

**“I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14. 6**

*J. Hart*

**1**

“I am,” says Christ, “the Way”;  
Now, if we credit him,  
All other paths must lead astray,  
How fair soe’er they seem.

**2**

“I am,” says Christ, “the Truth”;  
Then all that lacks this test,  
Proceed it from an angel’s mouth,  
Is but a lie at best.

**3**

“I am,” says Christ, “the Life”;  
Let this be seen by faith,  
It follows, without further strife,  
That all besides is death.

**4**

If what those words aver,  
The Holy Ghost apply,  
The simplest Christian shall not err,  
Nor be deceived, nor die.

It is not the bee's touching of the flower that gathers honey, but her abiding for a time upon the flower that draws out the sweet. It is not he who reads most, but he who meditates most — who will prove the choicest, sweetest, wisest and strongest Christian. (Thomas Brooks)

Humility is the robe of all the sons of God — and the distinguishing character of a true Christian. Humility is the only way to glory. True humility never desires to show itself because it intends to hide, not only other virtues, but above all, itself.

## FUNERAL SUMMARY OF THE LATE MRS. ELIZABETH SPAANS

Family and friends gathered in memory of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Spaans, who passed away from this life and entered into eternity on November 27, 2020, at the age of 83 years. Reverend Witvoet officiated the funeral service and opened with the singing of Psalter 281, followed by the reading of Psalm 27. Prayer was then offered, after which Rev. Witvoet addressed the mourning family, reminding them and all of us that though the day of our death may seem far off, especially for the younger ones, our life will pass swiftly. In times such as these, our conscience is prone to be more tender to the reality of death, and God is calling us to take heed that we will all one day die. The verse that was meditated on was the 4<sup>th</sup> "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 enquire in His temple." It was not the outward things that David desired, but a spiritual beholding of the beauty of God, and that is the only true beauty to see, all other earthly beauty is vain and passing. We were reminded that "The wages of sin is death," and therefore it must come to us all, but there is eternal life found in another, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He is the one thing needful that must be sought after. We were pointed to Psalm 84 where David desired to be found under the altar, like the sparrow and swallow who have their nest there. Rev Witvoet closed by impressing upon us the need to die to one's self before the day of our temporal death, in order that we may have life through Another, and all those who do will not be put to shame. Prayer was again offered and the singing of Psalter 246 ended the funeral service.

At the cemetery, Rev. Witvoet read Revelation 20. He then meditated on vs 6. He explained that spiritually the first resurrection refers to the merits of the first begotten of the dead, the Lord Jesus. He spoke of the blessedness and necessity of receiving that merited life by His death and life, which is regeneration by the Spirit of Christ. For such, the second death, that is the eternal death reserved for all unbelievers, will have no power.

He pointed out that we are still on the earth and not in the earth. That is, all the natural blessings of this life are not sufficient. Even though the heavens still cover us we need to be partakers of the life of Christ by a True and living faith. The day of grace therefore is still shining, and that is still so possible that we may be taken up into the heavens.

What is then the eternal blessing? The desires and longings of an advent, waiting people are fulfilled. As the desire of David was...to dwell in the Fathers house forever. What is their occupation? Then they become priests forever to offer eternal thanksgiving unto Him that lives and reigns forever.

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*O come, let us worship and bow  
down: let us kneel before the LORD  
our maker.*

*Psalms 95:6*

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