

December 13, 2020

MEDITATION

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service (Advent)
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service
Classes after the morning service.
Assignments are on the members page of the website.

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

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

Advance Notices:

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

-All the Lord willing-

Offerings Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Living Bread 2nd School Fund

This past Thursday, at the annual **congregational meeting**,
Mr. Norm de Wit received the vote for deacon;
Mr. Rick Rozeboom received the vote for elder.
Both have accepted their office.
Any objections must be submitted to the consistory in writing
Called for minister is Rev. van Ruitenburg of Chilliwack.
It was voted on whether to stand for the 3rd song. All who would like to stand for the 3rd song are welcome to.

We Remember in Prayer:

- The call sent out to Pastor van Ruitenburg to be our shepherd
- Mr. Gilbert Hoogendoorn who hopes to commemorate his 91st birthday on Thursday, December 17.
- Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, and all those with hidden crosses.

“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and His rest shall be glorious.” Isa. 11:10

Soon we hope to again celebrate Christmas and by renewal to commemorate the great miracle which was wrought in Bethlehem: God manifested in the flesh. But what meaning will Christmas have for us if we are a stranger of the state of our misery, if the rest in which we are by nature has never been terminated, a rest in death? What value will Christ, the only Prince of peace, have for us if we have not become restless because of our sins?

God’s people are made restless. Indeed, they are disquieted by discovering grace. God makes known to them the deep state of misery in which they are, without God in the world, without Christ and without hope for eternity. Wherever these discovered souls seek, they cannot find rest for the sole of their feet. Their debt must be paid; their sins must be removed. But that debt is increased day by day and their heart becomes worse continually. Oh, there is no rest for them. And behold, now God’s Word testifies that the rest is in Christ. “And His rest shall be glorious.” He will give those weary ones rest for their souls. He shall reveal Himself to them. He will lead them to Bethlehem’s stable and manger and open their eyes for Him of Whom the angels sang, “Good will toward men.” All rest outside of Him is false rest, but He shall give the soul rest from the condemnation of the law and from the plague of sin and from the assaults of Satan and from the tribulation in the world. It is a rest obtained by faith. And as the dove of Noah could not rest but only in the ark, so it is with the truly disquieted soul. Such a soul cannot rest but in Christ alone. God’s Spirit continues to strive with them and drives them out of all resting places so that they come as totally lost and hell-deserving sinners, bowing under and adoring the justice of God and obtaining the only Immanuel, God with us.

His rest is *glorious*. Who is able to describe that rest in words? The least experience of this rest causes our soul to sink away in adoration and the appropriation of Christ by faith gives a rest and peace which passes all understanding. This rest is glorious, for in Him is the reconciliation with God and the communion with the Father. Yea, in the conflict which is to be fought until the end, He is the rest of His afflicted and poor people whose Prophet, Priest and King He is. He grants rest in all troubles and sorrows, whereas He is the compassionate High Priest, Who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Oh, that we might enter into that rest!

~Rev. Kersten

NOTES

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Exalt the LORD our God, and
worship at his holy hill; for the
LORD our God is holy.
Psalm 99:9*

Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer
Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Clerk

Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman
Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer craigtimmer@ymail.com
Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom
Website: nrclf.com

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