

September 24, 2017

MEDITATION

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

-**Today::** We hope to have a morning catechism service (#27) and a 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Hofman.

-**Next Week:** We hope to have a morning reading service and an evening catechism service.

### Advance Notices:

October 15, Student Witvoet at 2:30 p.m.

October 29, Rev. Vergunst at 2:30 p.m. for Reformation Day service

November 19, Student de Leeuw at 2:30 p.m.

November 26, Student de Leeuw both services

-All the Lord willing-

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

**Membership:** We welcome into our midst Mr. and Mrs. Gus and Alma De Wit and two baptized children, Raina and Elliot, who have come over with their membership papers from the Rock Valley congregation. We pray you may receive a blessing in our congregation.

Any of our **young people** who are of age and have a desire to make confession of faith are encouraged to contact a consistory member. *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15*

### We Remember in Prayer:

-Mrs. Hermina Hoogendoorn who received the report that her cancer has returned. That the Lord may give comfort and strength and the doctors wisdom as they await a treatment plan.

-Rev. and Mrs. den Hoed as they had to cancel their trip to our area so she can undergo heart testing.

-Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, our widow and widower, our elderly, and the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, any others who are unable to gather with us today, are under doctor's care, and all those who have hidden crosses.

## A Cry of Distress out of the Depths

*Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O LORD – Psalm 130:1*

Beloved, we could say that Psalm 130 is a cry of distress out of the depths: "From out the depths I cry, O LORD, to Thee." If you would ask a child of God what the way of the Lord is, and what His leadings and dealings with His people are here on earth on their journey to eternity, they would tell you that you can find the answer in God's Word, and in their experience, and this is: through the *depths*.

Perhaps you will say: Are you going to present the way in such a manner? I answer: Yes. It always goes through a way of total impossibility, so that we can no longer see how it must go. I read in the Word of God that God's way is in the sea when God delivers that people out of Egypt. The poet says, "Thy way is in the sea, and Thy path in great waters, and Thy footsteps are not known." When God begins with a person, he thinks he will go from strength to strength. In the beginning it is a "way," later it becomes a "path," and the closer they come to eternity, it becomes just "footsteps." It steadily becomes more impossible and the way becomes narrower.

Peter says, "If the righteous *scarcely* be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" It becomes increasingly more impossible! But do you know what God's Church experiences? They learn that, in the ways which are so impossible to them, they nevertheless do not perish. And still, we *do* perish. And do you know how we perish? We perish in *ourselves*. That is just what is so necessary, for a child of God must learn by experience that he must perish in order to be saved from perishing, and the case must be solved in God. We must be delivered from ourselves, and be loosened from the world. This is the life of God throughout a person's whole life. And why? Because God seeks His honor in His people's salvation, and He works it out in His people with the loss of their life. This will be heaven in heaven for a child of God after this life.

He also works with His people in this manner, so that they may learn to cry, as the poet did, out of the depths to God, Who lives in heaven, and Who glorifies Himself in a people that lies in the depths. They learn to know Who God is for them, in a way in which they are cut off, so that it becomes impossible for them. And you can ask them this; God has led every child of God, throughout the ages, in this way. It is always cut off on their side, and always impossible to be saved on their side, because the Lord will never give His honor to another, neither His praise to graven images.

God stands for His own work, and will glorify Himself in a lost sinner, who must always come to God with his guilt and sin. The Lord reveals Himself to a people, who come to the Lord as empty-handed beggars,

who knock on the door of grace. The Lord wants to have His Church on that place. Why? Well, beloved, it is so that we continually experience what we have brought along from Paradise. This experiencing how miserable we are in ourselves goes on until the last breath, not only if we come to know our state of misery, but also if we may have gone over into Christ; yes, we also experience in the standing of our lives what we brought along from our deep fall in Adam, how it actually is with us, in order to learn in our lives what sin has brought about. It is necessary, beloved, to receive *knowledge* of guilt and sin, and our state of misery. ~Rev. M. Heerschap

## *Notes*

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and  
be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come  
in.*

*Psalms 24:7*

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