

**March 21, 2021**

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service.  
2:30 p.m. Rev. Witvoet  
Classes after the morning service.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Passion Reading Service

**Tuesday, March 30,** 7:00 p.m., baby shower for Alyssa deWit at Split Rock Fire Station

**April 7,** Church Visitation at 2:00 p.m. Anyone who desires to be heard at the meeting should submit their request in writing to the consistory.

-All the Lord willing-

**Offerings** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> Disaster Relief 2<sup>nd</sup> Prison Diary Ministry\*  
*\*update to this ministry on the foyer table*

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

-Our widows, widowers and lonely ones, the unborn, prodigal sons and daughters, those undergoing treatments, and all those with hidden crosses.

## **MEDITATION**

***“And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” (Luke 22:44)***

The suffering of Christ was unparalleled. Books about martyrs relate how they suffered incredible pain; yet, Jesus' suffering surpassed the pain of all of them together. Christ suffered and died instead of His children. Holy trembling should beset us when we, in thought, enter the Garden of Gethsemane. In this olive grove, the Man of Sorrows tearfully cried out in deep anguish. The three disciples who were with Him on the Mount of Transfiguration, heard and saw His agony. The other eight disciples were left behind at the entrance of the Garden. The Saviour, in saving compassion, kept silent about the strife that awaited Him and only told them He was going to pray. Only the three chosen disciples went with Him until they arrived under the shadow of the olive trees. Christ then went a

stone's throw further and the dreadful, deep agony commenced. The Saviour became increasingly sorrowful, overwhelmed and terrified. It was an escalating soul agony, producing intense angst which oppressed His heart. Sin is so evil, it literally cost Jesus His precious blood, incredible sweat and immense tears.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, it was not only the Devil and all the forces of Hell which attacked Christ, but also the full burden of God's wrath. Sin stirred up God's righteous displeasure, so that by nature we all are under the wrath and curse of sin. Jesus bore the full burden of God's wrath against the sins of the entire human race. However, in no wise does that mean that the entire human race will be free from eternal wrath. Christ would not have suffered less if only one person was to be saved. At the same time, Christ would not have had to suffer more if the entire human race was to be saved. The full wrath of God which Jesus bore, man could not have done, as he would have succumbed. Moses wrote in Psalm 90: *“Who knoweth the power of Thine anger?”*

Reader, flee from the wrath to come and bow at God's feet as a beggar. We are not going to be lost, we are lost. We are not going to come under the wrath of God, we are under the wrath of God. *“...and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* (John 3:36) Christ bore the wrath of God for guilty ones, for His entire Church. It so oppressed Christ that *“His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”* In severe agony, Christ prayed intensely to subject His human feelings to the will of His Father. Jesus' love was shown in the way He addressed His disciples when they could not stay awake, not even for an hour. Didn't Peter say He would defend his Master? The disciples slept, overcome with sadness. From a distance, they had seen Jesus' agony. It tore their loving heart, even when they could not understand it. It had tired them so greatly that they fell into a restless sleep. It shows us that man cannot do anything to satisfy the justice of God. Christ had to tread the winepress alone and made sure that no one helped or supported Him. Jesus awoke the three disciples twice. The third time, He lovingly told them: *“Sleep on now, and take your rest.”* (Matthew 26:45) Christ agonized, prayed, wrestled and was victorious so His disciples could rest.

May this be to the comfort of God's people, weary and heavy-laden, who experience that they can do nothing to obtain salvation. Are you complaining about your prayerlessness and weakness of the flesh? Remember, Christ paid the entire debt for His people. If they had to add anything, all would be lost forever. The Surety said: *“Come unto Me... and I will give you rest.”* God's people are no strangers of spiritual warfare, which can be fierce when they feel something of God's wrath and their guilt.

People of God, behold your Surety in the Garden of Gethsemane; your wrestling Surety, your praying Surety, your bleeding Surety. May the Lord grant you exercises of faith to know Him as the guilt-bearing and interceding High Priest.

Unconverted traveler to the never-ending eternity: *Delay not, lest His anger rise, and you should perish in your way; Lo, all that put their trust in Him are blest indeed and blest for aye.* (Psalter 4:4)

-Rev. A. Hofman

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



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

*Psalms 99:9*

---

*All who would like to stand for the 3<sup>rd</sup> song are welcome to.*

---

#### Consistory

Elders: Mr. Rick Rozeboom, Mr. Craig Timmer  
Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer, Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Clerk

#### Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Hofman  
Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer [craigtimmer@ymail.com](mailto:craigtimmer@ymail.com)  
Sermon recordings: Mr. Ryan Rozeboom  
Website: [nrscf.com](http://nrscf.com)

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