

March 10, 2019

THOMAS' CONFESSION OF FAITH

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** Morning catechism reading (#85) and an **afternoon service at 2:30 p.m.** with Student de Leeuw. No classes.

**This Week Tuesday, March 12,** Rev Witvoet hopes to serve us for a Prayer Day service at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 13,** Rock Valley Prayer Day service

**Next Week:** Morning reading (passion) and evening catechism reading (#86). Classes following the morning service.

-All the Lord Willing-

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

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

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

## MEDITATIONS

Let us use worldly things as wise pilgrims do their staves and other necessities convenient for their journey. So long as they help us forward in our way – let us make use of them, and accordingly esteem them. But if they become troublesome hindrances and cumbersome burdens - let us leave them behind us, or cast them away.

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The best course to prevent falling into the pit – is to keep at the greatest distance. He who will be so bold as to attempt to dance upon the brink of the pit - may find by woeful experience, that it is a righteous thing with God that he should fall into the pit! Sin is a plague, yes, the greatest and most infectious plague in the world; and yet, ah how few are there that tremble at it, that keep at a distance from it!

~Thomas Brooks

*“And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God!”  
(John 20:28).*

The Lord shall turn His hand upon the little ones. This was already prophesied by the prophet Zechariah. The Shepherd is smitten and the sheep are scattered. But the Shepherd shall not let His sheep wander, He will not let His languishing people stay forever in their sorrow. Without courage, His sheep dwelled in the midst of ravaging wolves. The Chief Shepherd, however, shall search His sheep, He will seek them out and turn His hand upon the little ones. The Lord is dead and with Him the hope of Thomas has perished. The considerations of Thomas' mind have ended, now he actually prefers to be alone with his grief. Thomas is not present in the circle of the disciples. His absence cannot be excused with any words. By not meeting along with the disciples, Thomas ended up being in darkness eight days longer than was necessary. A week later the disciples are again gathered together. Still they were beset with fear, for fearfully they kept the doors closed. There is already a speck of light: Thomas was with them. He could truly say with Asaph: “How doth God know? and is there knowledge with the Most High?” God's people have to do with an all-knowing God. Unexpectedly the Lord stands again in their midst. Neither doors nor unbelief can stop Him. It is His coming, which can perfect our salvation. “Peace be unto you!” Thus it sounds from the blessed lips of the risen Surety and Saviour. He is peace, He has made peace, and He effectually communicates peace. And now the Lord turns Himself to Thomas. He shall turn His hand upon the little ones. Reach hither thy finger, Thomas! A ray of Divine omniscience falls into Thomas' soul. It means: I have told thy wanderings, thy tears are put into My bottle. It also means: I know of thy unbelief, thy strife, and, deeply hidden in thy heart, of thy unfeigned love to Me. We do not read of Thomas that he put his finger in the print of the nails, nor that he has thrust his hand into His side. We do read that Thomas came to public confession of faith. The words, which he expressed, are of great importance. It is necessary that His entire suffering and dying become ours. Perhaps there are souls, who still go their way not comforted. Perhaps there of these “little ones,” whose frame is weak and humble, who are void of strength, and who are prone to stumble. O, if only they could believe it once that it was for them. For such it shall be a great wonder when the Lord comes. But when He comes, then He brings everything along.

~ Rev. A Hofman

# Notes

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*My praise shall be of thee in the great  
congregation: I will pay my vows before  
them that fear him.*

*Psalms 22:25*

## Consistory

Mr. Craig Timmer, President      Mr. Norm DeWit, Treasurer

Mr. Dave Hoogendoorn, Clerk

## Contacts

Bulletin announcements: Mr. Craig Timmer [craigtimmer@ymail.com](mailto:craigtimmer@ymail.com) or (231) 942-1389

Sermon recordings : Mr. Ryan Rozeboom

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