

December 24, 2017

MEDITATIONS

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today:** We hope to have a morning advent reading service and a Christmas Eve service with Student de Leeuw at 2:30 p.m. He serves Rock Valley this evening.
- Next Week:** We hope to have a morning reading service and a New Years Eve reading service at night
- This Week Tuesday**, visitation at the Porter Funeral Home from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and **Wednesday**, funeral at 10:30 a.m. in the Rock Valley church for Mr. Gerald van Voorst, who passed away this past Thursday, December 21, at the age of 69.
- Advance Notices:**
 - January 1, New Years Reading Service 9:30 a.m.
 - January 7, Rev. Hofman at 2:30 p.m. for Installation
 - January 11, presentation for the Bosnia Mission in the Hope Haven gym at 7:00 p.m.
 - January 21, Rev. Adams at 2:30 p.m.
 - All the Lord willing-

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

Notes:

- ~There are forms in the back of church to update the **church directory**.
- ~Anyone who is able to help serve the **luncheon** after Mr. Van Voorst's funeral, please contact Heidi Kock at 359-7135.
- ~Rev. Hakvoort has declined the **call** sent out to him. His letter will be read this morning.

We Remember in Prayer:

- Mrs. Joyce Van Voorst and further family of Gerald Van Voorst in their loss. May the Lord give strength and comfort the mourning family.
- Mr. and Mrs. Zomer who were enabled to commemorate their 58th anniversary yesterday, December 22.
- Those who have been unable to gather with us for some time, thinking especially of Mr. & Mrs. Roberts, and Mr. Hoogendoorn.
- Our widows and widowers, our elderly, 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.

"Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel, God with us" Isaiah 7:14

Immanuel is God with us, God in our nature still. He suffered as a man, and as a man He now reigns on the throne of glory; exercising all power and authority, and receiving all spiritual worship both in heaven and upon earth. He is the head of all principalities and powers, thrones and dominions. Thus man is not only saved, but unspeakably honoured and ennobled. He is brought into the nearest relation to Him, who is over all blessed forever. The angels adore Him; only redeemed sinners can say, "He loved us, and gave Himself for us; He has washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Gal. 2:20; Rev. 1:5); He is our Saviour, our shepherd, our Immanuel, God with us.

What a strong foundation does this doctrine afford for the faith and hope of those who indeed know Messiah, and have put their trust in Him! This truth is the rock upon which the church is built, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. "If God be for us, who shall be against us?" The difficulties of our warfare are great, the enemies of our peace are many. The world may frown, and Satan will rage, but Jesus has overcome the world, and is greater than all our foes. He will guide His people with His unerring wisdom, support them with His almighty arm, supply them out of the inexhaustible riches of His grace, revive them when fainting, heal them when wounded, plead for them above as their great High Priest, manage for them upon earth as their great Shepherd, and at last make them more than conquerors, and give them a crown of life.
~John Newton

Let us chide our cold unfeeling hearts and pray for a coal of fire from the heavenly altar to send us home in a flame of love to him who has thus loved us."
~ John Newton

[Christ] was born of a virgin, that we might be born of God. He took our flesh, that He might give us His Spirit. He lay in the manger that we might lie in paradise. He came down from heaven, that He might bring us to heaven. And what was all this but love? If our heart be not rocks, this love of Christ should affect us. Behold love that surpasses knowledge (Eph 3:19)!
~Thomas Watson

NOTES

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



*Therefore the Lord himself shall give
you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall
conceive, and bear a son, and shall call
his name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14

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