

**October 3, 2021**

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service and 6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service. Classes after the morning service.

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service and 6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service. Classes after the morning service.

**Advance Notices:** Student Kleijer on October 17 both services  
Rev. Witvoet on October 31 2:30 p.m.

**Bible Study** evenings for October are October 6 and 20 at 7:00 p.m.

**October singalong** will be this Friday, October 8 in Hudson

**Seniors afternoon:** The NRC High School students will host an afternoon coffee time for seniors this Wednesday, October 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the mini-gym at the school in Rock Valley, IA. They plan to sing Psalters and serve a light lunch. All church and school community members 60 years old and older are welcome.

-All the Lord willing-

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

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

-Mrs. van Voorst who hopes to commemorate her 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Tuesday, October 5.

-Mr. L Spaans who hopes to commemorate his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on Tuesday, October 5.

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

## MEDITATION

*“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.” Ecclesiastes 5:1*

What did Solomon mean with these words? Our Dutch forefathers in the marginal notes, wrote this meaning: Take notice of where you

are going, when you go to the temple, you are not going to an ordinary place, but to a place which is holy and where the holy things are entrusted; so that men must appear there in humility and reverence as before God’s countenance. Thus, these words point us to our going to church, going up to God’s house. How do we prepare ourselves when we go to God’s house on Sundays and during the week? Do we have the realization that we are appearing before God’s holy countenance? It was just pointed out what we stand in need of: humility and reverence. This has something to say, both internally and externally. By nature, we are proud, dead in sins and trespasses. If there is humility, it is the fruit of the renewing work of God’s Spirit. Reverence will then also be seen in the way we live, also on Sunday, and then especially in God’s house. This last point is what, by moments, can fill us with concern. When we go up to God’s house, do we have reverence?

Two people went up to God’s house. The one did not consider that he did evil – he gave the sacrifice of fools. Look, he stands in front of the temple, he opens his mouth and speaks about himself. He is glad to hear his own prayer, “God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are...” This man approached a holy God with what he possessed. He thought he had a right to grace, but he had never been taught to know himself as a lost and guilty sinner before God. He did not know that he did evil. This is an image of all of us as we are pictured in Adam. We still think we have so much, and with our religion we become rich and converted people. And the worst part is, we do not see it, nor do we believe it. May the Lord uncover us to this.

But now the other man. He also stands in the temple, but then afar off. That is, far from the holy altar, due to the shame he has over his sins. As a sign of the deep reverence in his heart for a holy God, he did not even dare to raise his eyes to heaven. He smote upon his breast as a sign of a heartfelt sorrow over committing evil. In this way he prayed! We do not read this about the Pharisee, but he thought that he was praying. But the publican had a true prayer, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” He did not know much, but one thing he did know, he had done evil. Do we also know this experimentally? Have we come to know of a place next to this publican? Then our greatest fear is ourselves, and then we will also understand what the need of this person was. What was his need? He needed God. He could not live nor die without God. It remains a wonder when, in God’s house, such ones may be brought closer and may come nigh to His altar. There they learn, by a beginning and by a continuance, how a filthy sinner can still be reconciled with God. Now, how do you go up to God’s house?

~Rev. B. J. Van Boven

## NOTES

# Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Sioux Falls, SD



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

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### 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: [nrclf.com](http://nrclf.com)

*Serve the LORD with gladness: come  
before his presence with singing.  
Psalm 100:2*

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