

## December 8, 2024

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 7a)  
6:30 p.m. Advent Reading Service

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Advent Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD 7b)

**Friday: Post High School Group** event starting at 7:00 p.m. We hope to have a Malawi, Africa (Timotheos Mission) presentation at Greg and Julie Bakker-3270 Fir Ave, Rock Valley. Any post high school age and young married adults are welcome to attend. We plan to have a presentation with potluck snacks and games to follow. For more information, please contact Beth Kelderman (605-987-7881) or Kourtney Rozeboom (712-460-2466).

### Advance Notices:

- December 15 services with Rev. Slingerland
- December 24 7:00 p.m. Rev. Witvoet Christmas Eve Service

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund    Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> Emeritus Fund                      2<sup>nd</sup> Disaster Relief

### Collections Received in November:

General Fund	\$2520.00
NAGMission	\$317.00
Alpha Center	\$405.00
Shepherds Way	\$273.00
Prison Diary	\$269.00

**New Publications:** Blue Books 426 and 427, 2<sup>nd</sup> set of advent puzzles

### We Remember in Prayer:

- The call to Rev. Schot to come over and help us.
- Our widows and lonely ones, our families, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

## MEDITATIONS

*“And His rest shall be glorious.”* Is. 11:10b

This is a prophecy of the coming of Christ. He is the root of Jesse, the great Son of David, the promised Messiah. Unto Him will the people be gathered. Also gentiles shall be enlisted in His service and fight under His banner, where they may be sure of the victory. Those

who are weak, crippled and powerless in themselves will experience: “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” Of this Messiah is said “and His rest shall be glorious.” a. This is the rest that Christ Himself enjoys after having finished His work. The glorious rest at the right hand of the Father, crowned with majesty and honor. b. This is also the rest which He gives to His people. The rest from the burden of sin and guilt, of bondage and the curse of the law; of the sense of the Divine wrath; rest also in afflictions and trials, but also an eternal rest hereafter. c. This rest is also His church.

He speaks in Ps. 132 of His Zion, which He has chosen for His habitation: “This is My rest for ever: here I will dwell; for I have desired it.” Here is the Shiloh, the Restgiver, the Refuge for wearied, heavy laden sinners. Something of this rest may already be experienced, when, by faith, they may behold Him, in the promises of the gospel.

Rest is there also in the revelation of His person. That is what an Advent people is longing for. Is that also your longing? There is rest when the Lord gives them to sink upon His accomplished work and they may know that the Judge is satisfied with the work of the Mediator. In a world full of unrest, instability, there is a resting place for those tossed with tempest and not comforted. It is not the false rest of the foolish builder, whose house did rest on a sandy foundation. How many there are who build on their own feelings, emotions, prayers, and so called good works. They will be so disappointed when they will be placed outside, and the door will be closed before them.

However, a people that distrusted themselves, and could not find rest outside of the Shiloh, that needed to hear it from Him, from His own Word will experience: “There remaineth therefore a rest unto the people of God.” Here already, by moments they may receive resting places in the wilderness, but once this will be perfect in heavenly glory. Then they will see Him as he is and will behold the King in His beauty.

O my unconverted friends, young and old, ask Him to take away your rest and draw you unto Him. Wearied pilgrim, hope in the Lord. He will not send away those who, poor, needy, and undeserving, take refuge unto Him, the Shiloh, this precious, willing, suitable Savior who came to seek lost sinners and to redeem them.



### Laid in a Manger

The Lord Jesus was laid in a manger. It was to teach us a lesson – to show us that there is not a place on earth too lowly, too poor, too unpleasant for the Saviour to come. There is no sinner’s heart too evil, too miserable, too vile for the Redeemer to enter and dwell there. “This man receiveth sinners...” Luke 15:2

*Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. (Titus 2:12-15)*

The gospel directs us to live sober, righteous, and godly lives in this world as preparation for the glorious hope of Christ's return. This hope centers on the "blessed hope"—heaven and eternal happiness in the presence of Christ, who will return in glory to reward His servants and complete their salvation.

At Christ's second coming, His divine majesty will be fully revealed as the great God and Savior who holds the authority of Judge and Redeemer. Though His first coming was marked by humility to purchase salvation, His second coming will be marked by majesty, to bestow that salvation fully upon His people. The gospel teaches us to await this appearing with expectant hearts, living lives of holiness and gratitude. God's people find comfort in knowing that the Savior is not only a man but the mighty God, whose power, mercy, and love will shine forth to the joy of the faithful and the terror of the wicked.

This blessed hope motivates His people to deny ungodliness, prepare for Christ's return, and joyfully anticipate the fulfillment of their salvation. To those to whom He has become precious, there is a desire for readiness, vigilance, and obedience. For, though the day and hour are unknown, He who promised to come will surely come, bringing eternal triumph to those who eagerly await Him. Let His people's hearts, then, be fixed on this hope, their lives reflecting the transformative power of the gospel as we wait for the great appearance of our Savior. ~Summarized from Matthew Henry's Commentary

*The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him;  
And he will shew them his covenant. (Psalm 25:14)*

Then how vain is the pretence of the Romish church in withholding from the common people the Word of God, when his secret is with them that fear him, and when he has expressly said that "things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever." ~ Plumer

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

**Sioux Falls, SD**



*The LORD hath done great things for  
us; whereof we are glad.*

*Psalms 126:3*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.