November 24, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service

6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service

2:30 p.m. Rev. Maljaars*

*Please see note in the announcements

There is a singalong and question and answer time after the

evening service in Sioux Center with Rev. Maljaars.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve with Rev. Maljaars

Thursday: Thanksgiving Day. Rev. Maljaars is in Sioux Center, and

Rev. Witvoet in Rock Valley at 9:30 a.m.

Friday: 7:00 p.m. Rev. Maljaars is holding a topic evening in the

NRC school on James 3 and the tongue.

Advance Notices:

-December 2 Congregational Meeting

-December 15 services with Rev. Slingerland

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund 2nd Prison Diaries 2nd NAGMission

We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, our families, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

"...the earth is full of Thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts." Psalm 104:24, 25

Thanksgiving Day is a day to acknowledge the Lord for His gifts. No matter whether we earned a living by working in an office, store, farm, greenhouse or elsewhere, we all had sufficient food. No one in our families lacked anything. Our children were able to go to school with a "full" stomach.

To have Thanksgiving Day under the current difficult circumstances, we should cover our faces in shame because of all

the plentiful goods the Lord gave us, none of which was deserved. Looking at the events of the past weeks and months, which showed God's chastening hand; it would be better if we humble ourselves.

The Lord wants His dominion to be recognized. The poet of Psalm 104 fully realized this. This Psalm could be called a Song of Creation, God's creation: heaven, earth, seas, mountains, valleys, streams, trees, grass, herbs, cattle and people. (Verses 2-14). The poet was awed with God's majesty in creation and His maintaining thereof.

Although the poet of this psalm is unknown, we observe his unfathomable awe. "The earth is full of Thy riches." (Verse 24). The margins state that all riches belong to God. The poet acknowledged God as the rightful Possessor of everything. God wants to be acknowledged as the Fountain and Provider of all we produce – in business, school, office, home, etc. By nature, we cannot rightly acknowledge the Lord, because we lost everything in Paradise. Blessed are those who are made aware of this through the work of the Holy Ghost, who learn to beg the Creator for grace to direct their life to Him and His righteousness. Then it will truly be Thanksgiving; a thanksgiving from God, returning to God, thus experiencing a precious communion with God. Only then will God's children truly know, by free and sovereign grace, that God is Possessor of all. Grace becomes so sweet and all its goodness flows from the Creator. Then it will truly be a day of spiritual thanksgiving.

We need to acknowledge the Lord for material goods as well. Do we think about this when we buy the things for our daily needs? Are we careful with our finances or do we purchase frivolous things? Young people, do you donate part of your earnings even if you have only a part-time job while you attend school? It would be an acknowledgment that all we earn is of the Lord, Who is the Possessor of all the silver, gold and "cattle upon a thousand hills". May we all learn to understand that God is the Owner and Distributor of all things.

"So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts." Even more so than the land, the sea is full of unfathomable and innumerable creatures. Ships are busy on the vast sea, either for transportation or for fishing shellfish or diverse other fish from its depths. The ocean is a world with all kinds of creatures, including the smallest fish, which show the majesty of creation. The Creator rules from His majestic throne over all on the sea, in the sea and around the sea, no matter what laws the governments have! If we pay more attention to God and His work, we would bow under His dominion, even if only outwardly.

There are also spiritual riches, when Christ was willing to go into the waves of God's wrath and justice to obtain righteousness for His people, to make them acceptable to His Father. We need to obtain these spiritual riches, by free grace only, in order to have our

foundation in Christ and to have our sins thrown in the sea of everlasting forgetfulness. Only then will it truly be Thanksgiving Day. Such ones, bankrupt in themselves, are made rich in Another and thus will be given to truly thank God Who is the Proprietor of His Church and the Giver of all spiritual good.

Poor, unconverted traveler to eternity, beg God and Him alone, for these indispensable and very necessary riches!

~Rev. C. van Krimpen



This is the Covenant of Grace. Which brings my Soul so sweet solace. There is a gracious paction Betwixt the Father and the Son

And by the Son, with Adam's race, Who should repent, and seek his grace. The Son unto the Father spake, I will Man's nature on me take.

I will myself a ransom give, For the Elect that they may live: Come, Son, (quoth He) if thou do so, They shall be saved from hell and woe.

The Father to poor man eh saith, If thou believe with saving faith, In this my Son; I'll give thee peace: Eternal love shall thee embrace. ~William Geddes

<u>Consistory</u> Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer Deacons: Mr. Norm DeWit, Mr. Rick Rozeboom Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland, Clerk: nrcsfsd@gmail.com Website: nrcsf.com

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people. Psalm 35:18