

September 1, 2024

This Week: 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD50)
6:30 p.m. Reading Service

Next Week: 9:30 a.m. Reading Service
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD51)

Advance Notices:

September 11 6:00 p.m. Church Picnic
September 22 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Baan
October 30 7:00 p.m. Reformation Day Service with Rev.
Slingerland

-All the Lord willing-

Collections: Today: 1st General Fund Next week: 1st General Fund
2nd Emeritus Fund 2nd Kingdom Boundaries

Heidelberg Catechism – We plan to read the sermons by Rev.
Sonneveld next. Please let the consistory know if you need the books.

We Remember in Prayer:

- The Kattenberg family, whose grandson passed away at the age of 6 weeks.
- The call sent out to Rev. Baan to be our shepherd.
- Our widows and lonely ones, our families, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses.

MEDITATIONS

If God Holds My Hand

These verses were written by the late Clive Jefferys when his youngest sister, who was then 16 years old, was facing a serious stomach operation in Bath hospital. This was during the Second World War at a time when the air raids were particularly bad in that area. In a letter his sister wrote home to her loved ones, she said: "I feel all will be well if God holds my hand." As she slowly recovered, her brother sent these verses to her in reply.

My childhood days have now passed by,
Life's pathway does before me lie.
The future's dark and all obscure,
There will be hardships to endure;
So when the years of life expand
I hope that God will hold my hand.

When dangers lie along the way,
And difficulties day by day
Shall make our journeying more tough,
And rocks and briars should make it rough;
I shall not find it hard to stand
If through the way God holds my hand.

Of course there may be sunny hours;
The pathway smooth and fair with flowers,
But dangerous is the smoothest way,
So easy then to go astray—
Could easily prove the "sinking sand,"
If God should fail to hold my hand.

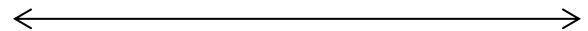
If ease should tempt to lure aside,
May I have Jesus for my guide,
If blackest woe bring near despair;
Still darker growing everywhere,
E'en then I'll reach the Heavenly Land
If all the way God holds my hand.

Keep me from thinking I shall be
Quite safe alone—forsaking Thee.
Help me to look to Thee and pray
For help, for guidance every day.
Then if I reach that Heavenly Land
'Twill be because Thou held'st my hand.

~Taken from The Friendly Companion



The best and sweetest flowers of Paradise God gives to his people when they are upon their knees. Prayer is the gate of heaven, a key to let us in to Paradise. ~Thomas Brooks



Though your sin be great, is not God's mercy great, exceeding great? Is not the satisfaction made by Christ great? Are the merits of Christ's blood small? Is not God, the great God of heaven and earth, able to do great things? You grant that God is almighty in providing for you, and is He not almighty also in pardoning? You say your sin is great, but is it infinite? Is not God alone infinite? Is your sin as big as God, as big as Christ? Is Jesus Christ only a Mediator for small sins?
~ William Bridge

Election is grounded on what God finds in Himself, not on what He finds or anticipates in us. God's good pleasure, that is, the purpose that pleases Him, is the motive of His plan. This reality ensures that God receives all the glory for salvation and that we are appropriately humbled before Him. Election reflects the very character of God. As God is immutable, so His purpose in election is immutable. Nothing can interfere with God's implementing His decree of election. In particular, the specific number of the elect cannot be reduced. This conviction is foundational to the doctrine of God and to predestination as well as to the teaching on assurance found throughout the canons.

~Robert Godfrey on the Canons of Dort Head I articles 10 and 11

O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Psalm 65:2
Prayer conduces much to enlargement of heart. The more earnest men are, the more they desire to be alone and free from trouble and distraction. When a man weeps and is in a mournful posture, he seeks secrecy that he may indulge his grief. When a man would deal most earnestly with God, he should seek retirement and be alone. Christ in His agonies went apart from His disciples. When He would pray more earnestly, it is said, "He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast" (Luke 22:41). It is said, "He went apart." Strong affections are loth to be disturbed and diverted, therefore seek retirement. And, it is notable, Jacob, when he would wrestle with God, it is said, "And Jacob was left alone, and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day" (Gen. 32:24). When he had a mind to deal with God in good earnest, he sent away his company. A hypocrite finds a greater flash of gifts in his public duties when he prays with others and is the mouth of others, but is slight and superficial when alone with God; if he feels anything, a little overly matter serves the turn. But God's children most affectionately pour out their hearts before Him in private. Where they do more particularly express their own necessities, there they find their affections free to wrestle with God. In public we take in the necessities of others, but in private our own. ~Thomas Manton

If we were aware of a serpent nestling by our bed, we would take the trouble to kill him. But when the devil nestles in our souls, we fancy that we take no harm, but lie at our ease; and the reason is that we do not see him with the eyes of our body. And yet this is why we should rouse ourselves even more and be alert. For against an enemy whom one can perceive, one may easily be on guard; but one that cannot be seen, if we are not continually in arms, we will not easily escape.

~John Chrysostom

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*Give unto the LORD the glory due unto
his name; worship the LORD in the
beauty of holiness. Psalm 29:2*

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