

LENT

**Platte
Christian Reformed Church**

March 2020

Dear Platte CRC Family,

I was grateful to see so many men joining for our workshop on stress last month. Much of what was presented was 'big picture' and foundational, and thankfully, very biblical. Over the next six weeks, we will be working out much of what was presented during our morning sermons in a series entitled "Facing Our Fears." Preaching on Philippians 4:2-9 on February 23, I called anxiety "fear run amok," and so this will be an opportunity for us all to investigate what we fear most, to put it back in its place, and to then restore a healthy and glorious fear of the living God. In order to help you even more, there will be copies of a workbook entitled *When I Am Afraid: A step-by-step guide away from fear and anxiety*. These will be free for your use. The next six morning sermons will follow (loosely) this workbook, and so it should be richly rewarding for you to make use of it throughout the Lent season!

Meanwhile, in the evenings, we've wrapped up our study of the end times, ending with the end for which we live: seeing the face of Christ in glory. I quoted a small portion of this meditation by the great Puritan, Thomas Boston, but it is worth you reading and savoring in full – a fitting way to conclude (for now) thinking more deeply about the last things:

Then we shall behold Him who died for us, that we might live forevermore; whose matchless love made Him swim through the Red Sea of God's wrath, to make a path in the midst of it for us, by which we might pass safely to our heavenly Canaan. Then we shall see what a glorious one He is, who suffered all this for us! Then shall we be more able to understand, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love really is.

Cont'd on back

When we shall fully realize that the waters of wrath which He was plunged into, are the wells of salvation from whence we draw all our joy; that we have received the cup of salvation, in exchange for the cup of wrath which He drank — how will our hearts leap within us, burn with seraphic love, as Heaven resounds with our songs of salvation!

We shall eternally, without interruption, feast our eyes upon Him — and be ever viewing His glorious perfections! In Him shall we see everything desirable — and nothing but what is desirable. We shall look into the heart of God, and there see the love He bore to us from all eternity, and the love and goodness He will bear to us forevermore.

We who are heirs of God, the great heritage — shall then enter into a full possession of our inheritance; and the Lord will open His treasures of goodness unto us, that our enjoyment may be full. We shall not be stinted to any measure — but the enjoyment shall go as far as our enlarged capacities can reach. We shall be fully satisfied, and perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of divine goodness.

Our love to the Lord, being purified from the dross of self-love, shall be most pure. We will be all love, when we come to the full enjoyment of God in Heaven, by intuitive and experimental knowledge of Him, by full participation in the divine goodness.

The enjoyment of God and the Lamb will be ever fresh and new to us, through the ages of eternity; for we shall drink of living fountains of waters, where new waters are continually springing up in abundance. Our joy shall be pure and unmixed, without any dregs of sorrow; solid and everlasting, without interruption. We shall swim forever in an ocean of joy — where we shall see nothing but joy wherever we turn our eyes. The presence and enjoyment of God and the Lamb will satisfy us with pleasures for evermore; and will afford us everlasting delight!

*"You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand!" Psalm 16:11***

In service to Christ,

Pastor Drew

**Taken from *Human Nature in Its Fourfold State*, by Thomas Boston (Banner of Truth, 1964)

FAMILY PRAYER NOTES

GENERAL PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ◆ Ask the Lord to provide the dry weather necessary for planting to occur on time and flooding to be avoided
- ◆ In this Lent season, ask the Lord for a new, deeper love for the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Pray for our community Lenten services, that the speakers would faithfully and passionately proclaim God's word and that the Christian church of Platte would be bound more fully
- ◆ Be in prayer for those who struggle with seasonal depression in the springtime, asking God to send His light and His hope into darkness
- ◆ As political primaries take place in the US, ask the Lord to give voters wisdom and discernment in selecting candidates of wisdom and quality character for party nomination.

Nursing Home Residents, Shut-ins and their Caretakers:

- ◆ Tony & Rozella Baan Hofman, Carol Bultsma, Kevin Burma, Gertie DeJong, Clair & Pearl Dyk, Marie Kok, Clarence Hunsucker, Sarah Kraayenbrink, JoAnn Kuipers, Juna Meyerink, Ruth Pranger, Cheryl Reed, Evelyn Severson, Leona Van Dusseldorp, Muriel Van Vuren, and Betty Van Zee

Those Mourning the Loss of:

- ◆ Clarence Hunsucker, Gertie DeJong, Cleo Bultsma, Ted Bultsma, Beckham Sternberg, Chris Dykshorn, and Dave Kuipers.

Missionaries:

- ⇒ Ben & Amy Meyer (CRWM– Mexico)
- ⇒ Victor & Lori Selemanni (YWAM– Africa)
- ⇒ LaVeryl & Max Voss (Wycliffe– Papua New Guinea)
- ⇒ Calvin & Jessica Wunderink (TeachBeyond-Czech Republic)

Monthly Birthdays and Anniversaries

(to see church activities, please refer to our weekly bulletin, or to the online calendar at plattecrc.org for the most up-to-date information)

March Birthdays:

- 1: Jake Van Zee
- 4: Pastor Drew Hoekema
- 5: Kim Lieuwen
- 6: Su Sybesma
- 7: Char Severson
- 8: Ezekiel Kuipers
- 12: Harlan Van Genderen
- 15: Taryn Hoeksema
- 18: Rozella Baan Hofman
- 20: Braden Voss
(Missionary)
- 26: Anessa Voss
(Missionary)

March Anniversaries:

- 1: Mike & Kris Kuipers
- 5: Clarence & Elaine Boltjes
- 6: Harlan & Judy Van Genderen
- 12: John & Gracia Kuipers
- 18: Lyle & Everine Schipper
- 28: Elroy & Carol Kaemingk

Please let the church office know if there are any birthdays or anniversaries that we've missed! Call 337-3572, or email: plattecrc@gmail.com