

The Prayer Needs of Our Church Family

Health & Strength: Connie Bennett (Parkinson's/foot surgery), Theo Baulding (relief from hip pain), Jean Cathey (eye surgery), Lola Knox (strength for cancer treatment & healing), Grady Pack (oxygen levels return to normal & stabilize), Audrey Turner, Cindy Wright, Missionary Nathan Olson (debilitating headaches), Rev. Rhett Sanders (complications from brain surgery)

For our homebound members: Elizabeth Barber, Theo Baulding, Jean Cathey, Foy Evans, Doris Haywood, June Little, George McKinney, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery, Gene Parks, Mae Wilburn and Al Wright.

Karen Hoke as she prepares to move on or before September 1st.

For Ed Limon on short-term missions trip: Mexico Music Camp

Family of the Week: The Larry Isley Family

Foy Evans desire to move back to Burlington & details to fall into place

Emergency Workers, Law Enforcement Officers and Armed Forces: Josh Limon, Stateside and Steven Mendiola, Middle East (Maggie & Baby Girl due August).

For Andrew and Norene Brunson suffering persecution in Turkey. Pray for his release from prison and that our nation's leaders would intervene effectively.

That we'd be salt and light in our spheres of influence as we go about our daily lives in our community.

Local Church: First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham,
Pastor Kent Butterfield

Allied Churches

Ali & Tari Mitchell (ARP Connect/Ministry to Muslims in USA)

For the Church of God to grow through the work of Central Services, the agency of the Executive Board of General Synod, which exists to support and encourage churches, pastors, agencies, and boards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Ask for God to grant wisdom for those who serve in seats of authority: parents, earthly masters, governors, judges and officers of the law.



“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
Matthew 5:3, *ESV*

Sunday Evening
July 23, 2017

**”It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night.”
Psalm 92:1-2**

Prelude Julie Snow

Readings from God’s Holy Word Rev. Bryan Crotts

Isaiah 6:1-13, *ESV*

Opening Hymn

No. 597 *Christ, We Do All Adore Thee* ADORE THEE

The Belgic Confession* (1561) Article 2

By what means God is made known unto us

We know him by two means; first, by the creation, preservation and government of the universe; which is before our eyes as a most elegant book, wherein all creatures, great and small, are as so many characters leading us to contemplate the invisible things of God, namely His power and divinity, as the apostle Paul says, Rom. 1:20. All which things are sufficient to convince men, and leave them without excuse. Secondly, he makes himself more clearly fully known to us by his holy and divine Word, that is to say, as far as is necessary for us to know in this life, to his glory and our salvation.

Prayers of the Congregation Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication

The Beattitudes *Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit* Rev. Bryan Crotts
Matthew 5:3, *ESV*

Prayer

Closing Hymn

No. 522 *He Lifted Me* HE LIFTED ME

The Belgic Confession, is the English following the seventeenth-century Latin designation "Confessio Belgica." "Belgica" referred to the whole of the Netherlands, both north and south, which today is divided into the Netherlands and Belgium. The confession's chief author was Guido de Bräs, a preacher of the Reformed churches of the Netherlands, who died a martyr to the faith in the year 1567. He was aided by Adrien de Savaria (Professor of theology in Leyden and Cambridge), H. Modetus (chaplain to William of Orange), and G. Wingen.

During the sixteenth century the churches in this country were exposed to the most terrible persecution by the Roman Catholic government. To protest against this cruel oppression, and to prove to the persecutors that the adherents of the Reformed faith were not rebels, as was laid to their charge, but law-abiding citizens who professed the true Christian doctrine according to the Holy Scriptures, de Bräs prepared this confession in the year 1561. In the following year a copy was sent to King Philip II, together with an address in which the petitioners declared that they were ready to obey the government in all lawful things, but that they would "offer their backs to stripes, their tongues to knives, their mouths to gags, and their whole bodies to the fire," rather than deny the truth expressed in this confession. Although the immediate purpose of securing freedom from persecution was not attained, and de Bräs himself fell as one of the many thousands who sealed their faith with their lives, his work has endured and will continue to endure. In its composition the author availed himself to some extent of a confession of the Reformed churches in France, written chiefly by John Calvin, published two years earlier.

The work of de Bräs, however, is not a mere revision of Calvin's work, but an independent composition. In 1566 the text of this confession was revised at a synod held at Antwerp. In the Netherlands it was at once gladly received by the churches, and it was adopted by national synods held during the last three decades of the sixteenth century. The text, not the contents, was revised again at the Synod of Dort in 1618-19 and adopted as one of the doctrinal standards to which all office bearers in the Reformed churches were required to subscribe. The confession stands as one of the best symbolical statements of Reformed doctrine. —from creeds.net