

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

December 25th 2016

Christmas Day



‘The light shines in the darkness’ by Richard Stokoe

Preparation:

Silent prayer beside the pulpit, 10.00 – 10.20 am

Prelude: Nun singet und seid froh, F.W. Zachau, D. Buxtehude

(This morning's organ music is all based on a traditional carol whose medieval tune first appeared in 1305)

Call to Worship and Approach to God

Jesus Christ is born today

Alleluia! The Saviour has come!

Immanuel, God with us, God is for us

Alleluia! God in the manger, God in the flesh!

❖ **Hymn 301:** *Hark the herald angels sing*

❖ **Prayer of approach** (ending with the Lord's Prayer)

(please say this in whichever language or version you prefer.)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Word of God

- ❖ **Hymn 282** - chorus, verses 3 & 4:
The third is for the angels,
who told of a king's birth;
as poor lowly shepherds
heard heaven's song on earth. The fourth is lit for Joseph,
who heard the angel tell
of one born to Mary,
his name Emmanuel.
- ❖ **Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-12 (New Testament, p.1)
- ❖ **The story of the wise men (i):** Caspar and the rainbow
- ❖ **Hymn 322, verse 1:** *Good Christians all, rejoice*
- ❖ **The story of the wise men (ii):** Melchior and the cloud
- ❖ **Hymn 322, verse 2:** *Good Christians all, rejoice*
- ❖ **The story of the wise men (iii):** Balthazar and the temple
- ❖ **Hymn 322, verse 3:** *Good Christians all, rejoice*
- ❖ **The story of the wise men (iv):** The wise men arrive
- ❖ **Lesson:** John 1:1-5,14 (New Testament, p.88)
- ❖ **Music in worship:** *Dans une douce joie*, Jean Langlais
- ❖ **Hymn 310:** *See him lying on a bed of straw*
- ❖ **Sermon** *The Long Journey*

Response to God's Word

- ❖ **Hymn 315:** *Once in royal David's city*
- ❖ **Prayers of Intercession**
- ❖ **Offering** *In dulci júbilo (BWV 608), J.S. Bach*
- ❖ **Dedication: Hymn no.305, v.5, followed by:**
O God, we praise you for the gift of Jesus,
Emmanuel, God with us.
**Accept our offerings of thanksgiving
and help us to live in joyful gratitude. Amen.**
- ❖ **Hymn 306:** *O come all ye faithful*

Sending out with blessing (followed by sung Amen)

Postlude: *In dulci júbilo (BWV 729), J.S. Bach*

*Please remain in place until the minister has left the Church.
Please turn off your mobile phones*

A very warm WELCOME and a very happy Christmas to all!

Our service today is conducted by our minister, Revd Dr Lance Stone.

The readers are Naomi and Euan Stone.

Prayers of intercession are led by Thorsten König.

Consistory members on duty are Giles Francis & Nick Thomas.

Notices

- **Visitors** are invited to sign the Visitors' Book after the service.
- There is a **crèche** for children under four years old, please ask at the door for more information.
- **Prayer:** Someone is available after the service in the chancel (behind the Communion table) for **anyone wishing to be prayed with**.
- Lance will be away in the UK from December 29th to January 3rd. Next week's service, a family Communion service, will be conducted by Rev David McMillan of this congregation.
- **Midweek Fellowship** resumes on Wednesday January 4th with a Bible Study at 9-II, Jan Willem Brouwersstraat. We are beginning a series on Matthew's Gospel, which will be featuring in our morning services.
- Interested in **outreach to refugees**? Contact Gillian Walker on gillian.walker@tele2.nl.
- **Cooking at De Kloof!** Our church is committed to cooking lunch at this homeless shelter every second Monday of the month. Interested? Please contact Tom Flanagan: dekloof@ercadam.nl
- The **International Federation for Family Development** is devoted to the enrichment of family and married life, including support for parenting. They would be willing run workshops for us on these topics if there is interest in our church. Please speak to Lance if you would like more information.
- We have a weekly collection of **non-perishable food and household goods** for *distribution* to those who are in need locally. These can be left in a box in the vestibule of the church before the service.
- Receive news about our **services, concerts and church life** by signing up to our weekly e-newsletter on the homepage of www.ercadam.nl.

Bible Readings for the Coming Weeks

These follow the Revised Common Lectionary, a programme of readings followed by churches all over the world. We normally use two of these passages in our services, sometimes quoting the Psalm in our Call to Worship. The passage or passages we will focus upon is in **bold** type.

You might like to read these passages in advance of Sunday.

Jan 4th : **Ecclesiastes 3:10-13**; Psalm 8; Matthew 25:31-40; Revelation 21:1-4.

Jan 8th: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; **Matthew 3:13-17**; Acts 10:34-43.

Jan 15th : Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; **John 1:29-42**; 11 Corinthians 1:1-9.

Jan 22nd : Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,4-9; Matthew 4:12-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18.

Church Contacts (See profiles of our elders in the church entrance)

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Don't forget to connect with the church online for all the latest news and information:



www.ercadam.nl



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Our Congregation

Founded in 1607 to serve the English speaking population of Amsterdam, we welcome worshippers from all over the world. Within the Reformed Tradition, we are part of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) and the Protestant Church of the Netherlands.

Our congregation relies on support through the gifts of time, talent and finance. We aim to be financially self-supporting and generous in outreach and mission.

Bank Accounts

English Reformed Church NL44 ABNA 0547 6235 50 Maintenance
Fund: Friends of the English Reformed Church: NL99 ABNA 0624
1800 69

Request for Information: I would like information about:

- Church Membership Baptisms Concerts Sunday School or Crèche
 Weddings 20s30s Group Church Magazine Mulanje Mission

Hospital (www.mmh.mw) Volunteering

I would like the Minister to contact me:

Please note my change of address:

Name:

Address & Postcode

Telephone.....

Email.....



English Reformed
Church Amsterdam

A congregation of the Church of Scotland and
the Protestant Church of The Netherlands (PKN)

