

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

December 17th 2017

3rd Sunday in Advent



There was a man sent from God whose name
was John... He himself was not the light.

John 1:6,8

Preparation: *Silent prayer beside the pulpit, 10.00 – 10.20 am*

Prelude: To Us Is Come the Saviour, D. Buxtehude

Call to Worship and Approach to God

When God takes us home from our exile,
we shall wake from this nightmare and live again.
Bars of iron will be shattered: we shall walk free
from gulag and ghetto, from dungeon and tower.

**We shall sing and laugh for joy,
echoed by birdsong and breeze of the spring.**

**The land itself will rejoice in God,
the whole world give praise**

for the wonders we have seen. *Psalm 126:1-3 (paraphrased)*

❖ **Hymn 277:** *Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes*

❖ **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

- ❖ **Children's talk and lighting of Advent candles**
- ❖ **Hymn 282 (v.1-3):** *Christmas is coming!*
- ❖ **First Lesson** John 1:6-8,19-28 (New Testament, p.88)
- ❖ **Music in worship:** *Laudamus Te*, G.F. Handel
Judi Haynes-Smart, soprano; Giles Francis, violin
- ❖ **Second Lesson:** Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 (Old Testament, p.702)
- ❖ **Hymn 334:** *On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry*
- ❖ **Sermon:** 'Not' *followed by pause for reflection*

Response to God's Word

- ❖ **Hymn 288:** *Creator of the stars of night*
- ❖ **Prayers of intercession**
- ❖ **Offering** *Gesu Bambino*, Pietro E. Yon
- ❖ **Dedication: Hymn 305, v.5** followed by
Living God,
We return these gifts to you
with grateful hearts.
**Use us and our offerings
to bring joy to the world,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Amen.**
- ❖ **Hymn 475:** *Christ is coming!*

Sending out with blessing *(followed by sung Amen)*



Postlude: *Let Us All Be Glad*, Healey Willan

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

*Our service today is conducted by our minister, Rev Dr Lance Stone.
The reader is Pamela Woolley. Prayers of intercession are led by
Elisabeth Jmker. Consistory members on duty are Laura Verhaaf &
Nick Thomas.*

A very warm WELCOME to all!

Please join us for **refreshments** after the service.

If you are new you might like to visit our **Welcome Desk**.

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.
- **Sunday School** and meets at the Lutheran Church, 4 Handboogstraat, across the Spui. Parents are asked to collect their children after the service. The Junior Church will leave after the Music in Worship.
- **Prayer:** Someone is available after the service in the chancel (behind the Communion table) for **anyone wishing to be prayed with**.
- This evening: **Prepare Your Hearts For Christmas: Advent Bible Study** with a difference led by Elizabeth Cavert Morrison, connecting the Bible to your experience, your culture, your life. 7.30pm at 9, Jan Willem Brouwersstraat. All welcome.

Christmas services & activities:

This afternoon, 4.00pm, **ecumenical multilingual advent service** with other churches on the Spui, at the Mennonite Church, Singel 452, and featuring our choir.
Sunday Dec 24th 10.30am, morning worship as usual;
10.30pm: Christmas Eve service;
Monday Dec 25th, 10.30am, Christmas Day Family service.

- Interested in work with refugees? Contact Gillian Walker at gillian.walker.ams@icloud.com.
- **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.
- Interested in joining a **WhatsApp Bible reading group**, reading through Mark's Gospel? Especially (though not exclusively) aimed at Christians who are young in the faith and keen to learn. Speak to Pastor Lance.
- 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 we will focus upon is in **bold** type.

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

Dec 24th: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:47-55; **Luke 1:26-38**; Romans 16:25-27

Dec 31st: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; **Luke 2:22-40**; Galatians 4:4-7

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



www.facebook.com/ERCAmsterdam



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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)