

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

December 24th 2017

4th Sunday in Advent



Henry Ossawa Tanner, The Annunciation

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

Prelude: How Brightly Shines the Morning Star, D. Buxtehude

Call to Worship and Approach to God

My soul magnifies the Lord:

My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

The Mighty One has done great things.

Holy is God's name!

❖ **Hymn 290:** *The race that long in darkness pined*

❖ **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.1-4): *Christmas is coming!*
- ❖ First Lesson Luke 1:26-38 (New Testament, p.54)
- ❖ Music in worship: *Noël*, Gabriel Fauré
Persephone Abbott, soprano
- ❖ Second Lesson: Luke 1:46-55 (New Testament, p.54)
- ❖ Hymn 285: *The angel Gabriel from heaven came*
- ❖ Sermon: "Yes!" *followed by pause for reflection*

Response to God's Word

- ❖ Hymn 287: *No wind at the window*
- ❖ Prayers of intercession
- ❖ Offering *Alleluia, W.A. Mozart*
- ❖ Dedication: Hymn 305, v.5 followed by
Gracious God,
As Mary gave herself to you,
saying 'yes' to your call,
**so take us and these our offerings
to be used in your service
and to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**
- ❖ Hymn 286: *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*

Sending out with blessing (followed by sung Amen)



Postlude: *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, J.S. Bach

*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 Tom Flanagan. Prayers of intercession are led by
Janet Donszelmann. Consistory members on duty are Ingrid
Sørensen & Pamela Woolley.*

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** meets at the Lutheran Church, 4 Handboogstraat, across the Spui. There is no **Junior Church** today. Parents are asked to collect their children after the service.
- **Prayer:** Someone is available after the service in the chancel (behind the Communion table) for **anyone wishing to be prayed with**.

Christmas services & activities:

This evening, 10:30pm, Christmas Eve service, *doors open at 10:00pm*.

Tomorrow, Dec 25th, 10:30am, Christmas Day Family service.

- Pastor Lance will be on holiday next Sunday, returning Jan 2nd. Our service next Sunday will be conducted by Rev Eric Foggitt.
- There is no midweek Fellowship this week. This resumes on Wednesday, January 3rd when there will be a Bible Study, 7:30pm, at 9 Jan Willem Brouwersstraat.
- 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 31st : Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; **Luke 2:22-40**; Galatians 4:4-7

Jan 7th : Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; **Matthew 2:1-12**; Ephesians 3:1-12

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)