

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

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

## **Harvest Thanksgiving**

### **The Story of Esther**



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

*Prelude: Preludes on ‘Now Thank We All Our God’, M. Dupré,  
G.F. Kaufmann, J.S. Bach*

### **Call to Worship and Approach to God**

The earth belongs to God in all its fullness;  
the world and all its inhabitants;  
**the earth bears witness that God is good,  
giving us rain from heavens and fruitful seasons,  
filling us with food and gladness.**

Let all the earth acclaim God,  
**God of seedtime and harvest,  
God of faithfulness and steadfast love.**

❖ **Hymn 233:** *Come, you thankful people, come*

❖ **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.

- ❖ Welcome to student minister, Alex Noordijk

## The Word of God

- ❖ Children's address
- ❖ Lesson: Esther 7:1-10; 9:20-22 (Old Testament p.461,462)
- ❖ Hymn 231: *For the fruits of all creation*
- ❖ Music in worship: *"The Heavens Are Telling"*  
from *The Creation*, J.Haydn
- ❖ Lesson: Psalm 124 (Old Testament, p.583)
- ❖ Hymn 238: *Lord, bring the day to pass*
- ❖ Sermon: *The hidden God of Carnival* Followed by pause for reflection

## Response to God's Word

- ❖ Hymn 153: *Great is thy faithfulness*
- ❖ Prayers of Intercession
- ❖ Offering *'Come Thou Font of Every Blessing'*,  
Arr. Douglas E. Wagner
- ❖ Dedication: Hymn 813 followed by:  
Gracious, generous God,  
faithful as the seasons,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for all that you provide.  
**Accept these tokens of our gratitude  
and use them and us to bear fruit  
and to bring life to the world. Amen.**
- ❖ Hymn 229: *We plough the fields and scatter*

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

Postlude: *Prelude on 'Nun danket alle Gott'*, Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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

*Our service is led this morning by our minister, Rev Dr Lance Stone. Scripture reader is Nick Thomas; prayers of intercession are led by Claire Zweers. Consistory members on duty are Nick Thomas and Thorsten König.*

# A very warm WELCOME to all!

Please join us for **refreshments** after the service. And all are welcome to join us for our **Harvest Potluck lunch**.

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

*We welcome to our service this morning guest musicians Patricia Goncalves, soprano; Ambrož Bajec Lapajne, tenor; Matthijs Mesdag, bass; Carole Spencer, flute; Arco van Zon, oboe; Giles Francis and Monika Geibel, violins; Connie de Dreu, viola; & Saskia van der Wel, cello*

## 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. Parents are asked to collect their children after the service.
- **Prayer:** If anyone feels in particular need of prayer today, someone (*Nick Thomas*) will be available after the service in the chancel, behind the communion table, to pray with them.
- After the potluck lunch today at about 13.30 hrs there will be a **Bible Study** at 9 Jan Willem Brouwersstraat on creation, nature, harvest themes. This is for the 20s-30s group but we are flexible and generous about age!
- **The Consistory** (elders) meet here on Monday evening at 19.30. Consistory meetings are open and may be attended by any member.
- **Midweek Fellowship** this Wednesday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Bible Study**, 19.30 at 9 Jan Willem Brouwersstraat. Continuing studies in Daniel. All welcome!
- Pastor Lance is planning on running an '**Exploring the Faith**' course (4 weeks) soon. The course looks at the story the Bible tells with a view to understanding what it means to be a Christian. For anyone interested in church membership, baptism, confirmation, or just a refresher course in the Christian faith.
- **Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> – ecumenical gathering:** after the closing hymn and blessing we will leave the church and cross the Spui to the Lutheran Church where we will gather with other local churches – Lutherans, Mennonites, Roman Catholics – to sing a hymn, and then proceed to the Mennonite Church - Doopsgezinde Singelkerk, Singel 452 – for refreshments. So no coffee here after the service. Please join in if you can.
- Coming soon: **The Meeting of the Church of Scotland International Presbytery** of which we are a part will take place here on the weekend of October 11-14. Details to follow.
- Coming soon: '**pub quiz**': here at the church, Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 19.00 hrs. Joint quiz evening with the ladies of the Begijnhof, raising funds for the Mulanje Mission Hospital. We need teams to compete – do come along!

## 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.

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

Oct 5<sup>th</sup>: Job 1:1;2:1-10; Psalm 26; Mark 10:2-16; Hebrews 1:1-4;2:5-12.

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

**Rev Dr Lance Stone**, Minister minister@ercadam.nl, 020 672 2288  
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**Dr Thorsten König**, Treasurer treasury@ercadam.nl, 0294 772934  
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**Ms Veronica Garcia Robles**, Lay Assistant layassistant@ercadam.nl  
**Mr Jens Anders Wejsmark Sørensen**, Webmaster webmaster@ercadam.nl

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



[www.ercadam.nl](http://www.ercadam.nl)



[www.facebook.com/ERCAmsterdam](http://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](http://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)