

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

September 13th 2020

Prelude: Pavan, Alec Rowley

Call to Worship and Approach to God

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—**

who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy...

Psalm 103:1-4

❖ Hymn:

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like you his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia!
praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to blame and swift to bless;
Alleluia, alleluia!
glorious in his faithfulness.
3. Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us
rescues us from all our foes:
praise him! praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.
4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish:
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the high eternal One.
5. Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
praise him all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
praise with us the God of grace.

❖ 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 address

Not 1, not 2, not 3, not 4, not 5, not 6, not 7,
But go on 7 times 70 times if you want to be forgiven.
Not 1, not 2, not 3, not 4, not 5, not 6, not 7,
But go on 7 times 70 times if you want to go to heaven!

❖ Holy Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."
²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents¹ was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister^[2] from your heart."

❖ **Music in worship:** *Oh God, Have Mercy*, J.G. Walther

❖ **Sermon:** *the journey of forgiveness* *Followed by pause for reflection*

Response to God's Word

❖ Hymn:

- 1 Help us forgive, forgiving Lord
the wrong that others do,
and, when our hearts are pierced by pain,
to bring the hurt to you.
- 2 For on the cross you bore for us
the curse, the scorn, the hate
and gave your life to lift from us
sin's cruel and crushing weight.
3. Let grace unlock each prisoned heart,
uncoil each fisted hand
until from hate our hearts are freed,
our hands in love extend.
4. And then, the broken circle closed,
the broken friendships healed,
Lord, hold us fast within the bonds
by your forgiveness sealed.

❖ **Prayers of Intercession**

❖ **Music:** *Air*, Samuel Wesley

❖ **Prayer of dedication**

Gracious God,
mindful of your generosity and grace,
your mercy and forgiveness,
we offer you thanks and praise.
**And we offer to you our lives,
that they may be used in the service
of your kingdom,
as instruments of peace and reconciliation. Amen.**

❖ **Hymn:**

1. Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.
*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*
2. Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy
Oh, master grant...
3. Make me a channel of Your peace
It is pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life
Oh, Master, grant...

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

Postlude: Toccata in d-minor, J.J. Froberger

The Scripture is read this morning by Elisabeth IJmker.
Prayers of intercession are led by Baafi Owusu Sekyere.

Please remember to turn off your mobile phones.
Please remain in place until you are directed to leave the Church.
Please do not gather to socialise in the Begijnhof after the service, but
proceed to the Spui as quickly as possible. Thank you.

A very warm WELCOME to all!

Notices

- There is a **crèche** for children under four years old, please ask at the door.
- **Sunday School, Junior Church** meet at 4 Handboogstraat, across the Spui. Parents please collect your children after the service.

This week's activities:

- **Sunday, 21.00 hrs:** Short evening prayers, Compline: *join at* <https://zoom.us/j/91386497205?pwd=YUN5dnRLOWlybHDSV250aHdJcnhiQT09> . Password: 243960.
- **Monday, 14.00-16.00 hrs:** Knitting Christmas angels at the church. *Contact Gillian Walker at* gillian.walker.ams@icloud.com
- **Tuesday, 08.45 hrs:** Psalm Reciting (this week – Psalms 92-101), at the church. You are welcome to recite these psalms any time.
- **Wednesday, 19.30 hrs: Bible Study**, a series on Jesus' parables. Join us on: <https://zoom.us/j/92316847530?pwd=TjdObHBvcnVTRWM4bWprS2QrenBnQT09> .
- **Thursday, 21.00 hrs:** Short evening prayers, Compline: *join at* [Join at](https://zoom.us/j/91386497205?pwd=YUN5dnRLOWlybHDSV250aHdJcnhiQT09) <https://zoom.us/j/91386497205?pwd=YUN5dnRLOWlybHDSV250aHdJcnhiQT09>
- **Prayer:** anyone in special need of prayer for themselves or for someone else, please contact Margaret Richards on margaretanne_richards@hotmail.com .

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

Rev Dr Lance Stone, Minister minister@ercadam.nl, 020 672 2288
Ms Heleen Koning, Scriba, scriba@ercadam.nl, 06 13097756
Mr Charles Vanderpuye, Treasurer treasury@ercadam.nl, 0294 772934
Mr Richard Zook, Music Director organist@ercadam.nl, 075 6311419
Ms Susan Polstra, Church Officer churchofficer@ercadam.nl, 020 622 4158
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



www.facebook.com/ERCAmsterdam



[TweetERCADAM](https://twitter.com/TweetERCADAM)

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

Bank Accounts

English Reformed Church NL44 ABNA 0547 6235 50 Maintenance Fund:
Friends of the English Reformed Church: NL99 ABNA 0624 800 69