

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

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve
24 December, 2020



Prelude *Come, All Ye Shepherds*, Bohemian carol, arr. Richard Warner

Welcome, Call to worship

Minister: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

Carol *Once in Royal David's City* (vs.1 Dean McHugh)

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy
3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around

Prayer

First Lesson **Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19** read by Jared Penner

Choir *Salvation Is Nearer* – Virgil T. Ford

Carol *In the Bleak Midwinter*

1. In the bleak midwinter
frosty winds made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.
3. Enough for him whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk
and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.
4. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air,
but only his mother,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Beloved,
with a kiss.
5. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

Second Lesson **Genesis 22: 15-18**, read by Gillian Walker

Choir *Winds of Judea* - Katherine Lyon, arr. Eugene Butler

Third Lesson **Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7**, read by Jolmer Gerritse

Choir *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* – German Macaronic carol,
arr. Hermann Schröder

Carol *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

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| 1. God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our saviour
was born on Christmas day;
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray. | <i>O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.</i> |
| 2. From God our heav'nly Father
a blessèd angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name. | 4. But when to Bethlehem they came
where our dear Saviour lay,
they found him in a manger
where oxen feed on hay.
His mother Mary kneeling
unto the Lord did pray. |
| 3. The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straight'-way
this blessèd Babe to find. | 5. Now to the Lord sing praises
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface. |

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9, read by Rosemarie Tiggelovend

Choir *Carol of the Bells* - Ukrainian carol
M. Leontovich, arr. Peter Wilhousky

Carol *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (Sussex Carol)*

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| 1. On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth. | 3. When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
heaven and earth with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born King. |
| 2. Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty? | 4. All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night,
Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forever more, Amen. |

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1: 26-35, 38, read by Thijs Polstra

Choir *A Dove Flew Down from Heaven* - German carol
arr. Hermann Schröder

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 1, 3-7, read by Peggy Krol

Choir *Still, Still, Still* - Austrian carol, arr. Norman Luboff

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth!
3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n;
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2: 8-16, read by Giles Francis

Choir "The Shepherds' Farewell" from *L'enfance du Christ* - Hector Berlioz

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-11, read by Heleen Koning

Choir *Christ Was Born on Christmas Day* - XVI cent. French Noël
arr. Charles F. Manney

Carol *It Came Upo Midnight Clear*

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heav'n's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessèd angels sing.
3. O ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.
4. For lo! the days are hast'ning on
by prophets seen of old
when, with the ever-circling years,
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Ninth Lesson

John 1: 1-14, read by the Rev. Dr. Lance Stone

Carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*
2. God of God,
Light of light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
begotten, not created;
3. Sing choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
in the highest'
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

Offering for the Mulanje Mission Hospital

Dedication and Prayer

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"
2. Christ by highest heav'n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate deity,
pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

The Blessing (*sung three-fold amen*)

Postlude *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* - J.S. Bach

The Service is conducted by our minister, the Rev. Dr. Lance Stone.

The organist and choir director is Richard Zook.

We welcome to our service guest musicians:

Carole Spencer, flute

Giles Francis, violin

Odile Torenbeek, viola

Judith van Swaay, cello

Brian Fieldhouse, organ.

Christmas Events December 2020

Friday 25th –10:30am **Christmas Day** On-line Family service

Our Congregation

Our congregation was founded on 4 February 1607 to serve the English speaking population of Amsterdam. We welcome worshippers from many countries, backgrounds and walks of life. Founded within the Reformed Tradition we are part of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) and the Protestant Church of the Netherlands.

The first church in the Begijnhof was built as a private chapel in about 1390; it was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in the 1490s. The church was closed by the Town Council in the Reformation and lay unused for 30 years till in 1607 it was given to English-speaking worshippers in Amsterdam.

Our congregation relies on the support of worshippers, members and friends to maintain our ministries and buildings. We aim to be financially self-supporting both in our own work and in order to give to others in mission. There are different ways to support our congregation; through the gifts of time, talent, and finance. We invite everyone to be involved, and to prayerfully consider how you can support and share the ministry of the congregation.



**English Reformed
Church Amsterdam**

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