

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

January 3rd 2021

Prelude: Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, G.A. Merkel

Adagio from Trumpet Concerto in D Major, G.Ph. Telemann

Call to Worship and Approach to God

Wise God,
you are older than the ages
and you dance in the starlight
and you love us

Wise God,
you share your bread with strangers
and you welcome little children
and you understand us

Wise God.
you wrestle with the powerful
and you comfort all who need you
and you disturb us

Wise God,
shining in the darkness
found by those who seek you
we are here to learn from you

❖ Hymn 318:

1 Lord, you were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor;
leaving your throne in glad surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor:
Lord, you were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor.

2 You are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards, by your eternal plan:
you are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man.

3 Lord, you are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship you;
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us and keep us pure and true:
Lord, you are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship you.

❖ Prayers of approach (ending with the Lord's prayer)

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

❖ Holy Scripture: John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was
God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him

was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[d] full of grace and truth.

❖ **Music:** *Largo* from *Sonate in C Major*, J.B. Loeillet

❖ **Sermon**

Followed by pause for reflection

Response to God's Word

❖ **Hymn 316:**

1. Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine:
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

2. Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Love shall be our token,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

❖ **Prayers of Intercession**

❖ **Offering and dedication** *Allegro* from *Sonate in C Major*, Loeillet

❖ **Hymn 317:**

1. Before the world began
one Word was there;
grounded in God he was,
rooted in care;
by him all things were made;
in him was love displayed;
through him God spoke and said,
'I am for you.'

2. Life found in him its source;
death found its end;
light found in him its course,
darkness its friend,
for neither death nor doubt
nor darkness can put out
the glow of God, the shout:
'I am for you.'

3. The Word was in the world
from which he came;
unrecognised he was,
unknown by name;
one with all humankind,
with the unloved unlined,
convincing sight and mind:
'I am for you.'

4. All who received the Word,
by God were blessed,
sisters and brothers they
of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of grace
proclaim in time and space
and with a human face,
'I am for you.'

❖ **Confession of faith:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ **The Invitation, the story of the Last Supper**

❖ **Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

The Lord be with you

Lift up your hearts

Let us give thanks

to the Lord our God

and also with you

we lift them up to the Lord

It is right to give

our thanks and praise

... earth and sea and sky, and all the heavenly host we join in singing...

(Hymn 651): Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

❖ **Prayer of Consecration**

... your body on earth, loving and caring in the world...

**Behold the lamb of God, behold the lamb of God,
who takes away the sin, the sin of the world.**

❖ **Sharing of bread and wine**

❖ **Prayer**

❖ Hymn 326

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we, with willing feet,
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
4. Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

❖ **Sending out with blessing**

Postlude: The trumpet shall sound from The Messiah,
G.F. Händel

*We welcome our guest organist Gert-Jan Mostert and guest
trumpetist Ruud Ootes.
Scripture reader today is Giles Francis; prayers of intercession are led
by Elisabeth IJmker.*