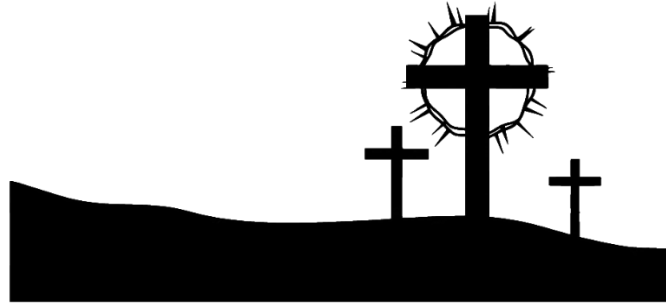


# “Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

English Reformed Church, Amsterdam

29 March 2024

Good Friday



## Music for meditation as we gather

Two preludes on “*O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded*”

- Dietrich Buxtehude

- Flor Peeters

*Le Prie-Dieu* - George Oldroyd

*Variations on “Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed”* - Dale Wood

*Oh, We Poor Sinners!* - Ernst Pepping

*Threnody* - Richard Ellsasser

## Welcome

## Lighting of the candles and Call to worship

God showed His love for us  
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us  
**If any want to become my followers,  
let them deny themselves and take up their cross  
and follow me.**

In our darkness we long for light,  
**the light of Jesus,**  
**who carries our sorrows,**  
**heals our wounds,**  
**and redeems us from every death.**

**Hymn 374**     *The Servant King*

**1** From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

**2** There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

**3** Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

**4** So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

**First Reading**     Matthew 27:1-2, 11-14  
*Pilate interrogates Jesus*

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. <sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear

how many accusations they make against you?’ <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

## **Prayer**

**Second Reading**     Matthew 27:15-26  
*Barabbas is set free*

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, ‘Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, ‘Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.’ <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ And they said, ‘Barabbas.’ <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, ‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ All of them said, ‘Let him be crucified!’ <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, ‘Why, what evil has he done?’ But they shouted all the more, ‘Let him be crucified!’ <sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.’ <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’ <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

**Choir**     *Vinea mea electa* - Francis Poulenc

“My chosen vineyard, I planted you;  
How you turned to bitterness,  
to crucify me and let Barabbas go.”

## Reflection

### Hymn 549      *How deep the Father's love for us*

- 1 How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;  
the Father turns his face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen One  
bring many souls to glory.
- 2 Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there,  
my pardon he accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that 'it is finished'.
- 3 I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from all of this?  
I cannot give an answer;  
but this I know with all my heart,  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

### Third Reading      Matthew 27:27-44 *Jesus is mocked & led out*

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and

after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ <sup>30</sup> They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’ <sup>38</sup> Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, ‘You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.’ <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> ‘He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, “I am God’s Son.”’ <sup>44</sup> The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

**Choir**     *Go to Dark Gethsemane* - T. Tertius Noble

**Hymn 557**     *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

1 O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee:  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

- 2 O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee:  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.
- 3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee:  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.
- 4 O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee:  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

## Reflection

## Offering

**Fourth Reading**     Matthew 27:45-52  
*Jesus is crucified*

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were

opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

**Choir**     *Crucifixus* - Antonio Lotti

**Closing prayer, said by all.**

**Jesus, now we will wait by your tomb  
carrying our grief;  
the grief of the betrayer,  
the grief of the denier,  
the grief of the crucifiers.**

**We carry the grief of the lost,  
the heartbroken, the bereft.  
Upon you was laid the grief of us all.**

**It is finished.  
God of endings, God of darkness,  
God of the tomb, God of dark days and great loss,  
be with us now as we wait with Jesus.  
AMEN**

*We stay seated and continue in private prayer or meditation as  
the candles are blown out. In our own time, however long or  
short that may be, we leave the church in silence.*

*Thank you!*

*This evening's service is conducted by the locum,  
Rev Alan Sorensen  
The elders on duty are Christina Potharst and John-Harmen Valk*

## Notices

- **Easter Sunday Service on 31 March, 10:30** led by Rev Alan Sorensen.

Please note: In the night from Saturday 30 March to Easter Sunday 31 March the **clock will be moved forward one hour**.

- **Finance:** Please note that besides the weekly collection in church, you can also donate to the ERC's General Fund, Mulanje Mission Hospital and Maintenance Fund via bank transfer:

Maintenance Fund: *Stichting Friends of the English Reformed Church* NL90 ABNA 0624 1800 69

General Fund or Mulanje Mission Hospital: *English Reformed Church* NL44 ABNA 0547 6235 50

Alternatively, please feel free to use these QR codes for a Tikkie or to use PayPal:



Visit us at  
[www.erc.amsterdam](http://www.erc.amsterdam)

This worship service will be recorded. The last 6 rows on the right-hand side of the church are outside the reach of cameras.