

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

English Reformed Church, Amsterdam

7 April 2024

Prelude *Quartet op.9, “adagio” - Joseph Haydn*

Jeanine van Amsterdam and Giles Francis, *violin*

Odile Torenbeek, *viola*

Douw Fonda, *cello*

Welcome and announcements

Candle lighting and Call to Worship

Goodness is stronger than evil,

love is stronger than hate;

light is stronger than darkness,

life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours

through him who loved us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Hymn 413

The Day of Resurrection!

1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God!
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.

- 2 Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and, listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own 'All hail!' and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.
- 3 Now let the heavens be joyful
and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our Joy that has no end.

Prayer *ending with the Lord's Prayer (in any language)*

Reflection

Hymn 409 *Jesus is Risen, Alleluia!*

- 1 Jesus is risen, alleluia!
Worship and praise him, alleluia!
Now our redeemer bursts from the grave;
lost to the tomb, Christ rises to save.
*Come, let us worship him, endlessly sing;
Christ is alive and death loses its sting.
Sins are forgiven, alleluia!
Jesus is risen, alleluia!*
- 2 Buried for three days, destined for death,
now he returns to breathe with our breath.
Blest are the ears alert to his voice,
blest are the hearts which for him rejoice.

3 ‘Don’t be afraid!’ the angel had said,
‘Why seek the living here with the dead?
Look, where he lay, his body is gone,
risen and vibrant, warm with the sun.’

4 ‘Go and tell others, Christ is alive.’
Love is eternal, faith and hope thrive.
What God intended, Jesus fulfilled;
what God conceives can never be killed.

5 Let heaven echo, let the earth sing:
Jesus is saviour of everything.
All those who trust him, Christ will receive;
therefore rejoice, obey and believe!

First Reading Acts 2:22-32, NT Page 115

.....part of the speech Peter makes to crowds on the day of Pentecost

‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

²⁹ ‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Music in Worship *Chorale* - J.S. Bach

Second Reading John 20:19-31, NT Page 112

.....in which the risen Christ meets his fearful disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁷ Then he said

to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Hymn 601

Look Upon Us, Blessèd Lord

- 1 Look upon us, blessèd Lord,
take our wandering thoughts and guide us,
we have come to hear your word:
with your teaching now provide us,
that, from earth's distractions turning,
we your message may be learning.
- 2 For your Spirit's radiance bright
we, assembled here, are hoping:
when we live without your light,
in the dark our souls are groping:
in word, deed, and thought direct us:
only you, Lord, can correct us.
- 3 Brightness of the Father's face,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
make us ready in this place:
ear and heart await your leading.
In our study, prayers, and praising,
may our souls find their upraising.

Sermon ...*followed by a time of silence for reflection*

Prayers of Concern

Offering *Quartet op.9, “adagio” - Joseph Haydn*

Hymn 348 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
curing every dread disease,
calming storms, and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert’s burning sand;
from this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.

- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory.
Praise the One who makes us one.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be with you

All: **And also with you** (*Greet one another with words of Peace*)

The Invitation to Communion

The Narrative *or* Story of the Last Supper ...*as recorded by St Paul.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving *beginning with The Sursum Corda*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise**

The Sanctus (*music at Hymn 651*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of power and might.
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessèd is he, O blessèd is he
 who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

The Consecration

The Agnus Dei

1.+2.+3.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 1.+2.
 sin of the world. Have mer - cy up - on us.
 3.
 sin of the world. Grant us your peace.

The Sharing of Communion

String Quartet in A-minor, "Epilogue" - R. Vaughan Williams

Closing Prayer

Hymn 676

Shout for Joy!

- 1 Shout for joy! The Lord has let us feast;
 heaven's own fare has fed the last and least'
 Christ's own peace is shared again on earth;
 God the Spirit fills us with new worth.
- 2 No more doubting, no more senseless dread:
 God's good self has graced our wine and bread;
 all the wonder heaven has kept in store
 now is ours to keep for evermore.

- 3 Celebrate with saints who dine on high;
witnesses that love can never die.
'Hallelujah!' – thus their voices ring;
nothing less in gratitude we bring.
- 4 Praise the Maker, praise the Maker's Son,
praise the Spirit – three yet ever one;
praise the God whose food and friends avow
heaven starts here! The kingdom beckons now!

Benediction *followed by sung Amen*

Postlude *Quartet op.9, "allegro moderato" - Joseph Haydn*

*This morning's service is conducted by the locum,
Rev Dr. John Bell
The reader is Rosemarie Tiggelovend
The elders on duty are Mattia Falcone and Ross Marks*

Today

- **A Warm Welcome to Rev Dr. John Bell.**
We welcome back Rev Dr. John Bell. John will be with us until the end of May.
- **Crèche for infants and toddlers (0-4 years old) is available this morning and every Sunday worship service.** The crèche is located in a room on the left side of the building. If you need directions, please ask one of the elders on duty.
- **The 20s-30s group** will meet for lunch after the service. Every young adult (young at heart included) is welcome to join!

Upcoming events

- **Women's Fellowship (with potluck dinner) on Monday, 8 April**, from 18:30 - 21:00. If you would like to join in, please contact the hostess, Je Hart (jecorro@hotmail.com).
- **Bible Study on Wednesday, 10 April, 19:30** at the Manse or via Zoom, led by Rev John Bell. All are welcome to join us at the Jan Willem Brouwersstraat 9-2 (Amsterdam) or via this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87189899249>
- **Consistory Meeting** on Thursday, **11 April**, at 19:30. Consistory meetings are on the second Thursday of the month. The meetings are open to all members of the congregation. If you would like to join the meeting and/or raise a topic, please let the scriba team know (scriba@erc.amsterdam).
- **Cooking at the Kloof** on Saturday, **13 April**, at 09:30. If you are interested, please send an email to Giles Francis at gilesf@telfort.nl for more information.
- **The Annual General Meeting** of the ERC church will be held in the church on **14 April** after the church service.
- **Night of The Refugee on 15-16 June.** This year a group will again be walking 40/20/10 km through the night, raising money to support refugees all over the world. If you'd like to join our group and help refugees please get in touch with Gillian on gillian.walker.ams@icloud.com Here are some links if you'd like to know more: <https://www.nachtvande vluchteling.nl/>
<https://www.nachtvande vluchteling.nl/project/haarlem-amsterdam>
And if you don't feel like walking you could volunteer to help set up and/or support those with blisters and bags under their eyes.
<https://www.nachtvande vluchteling.nl/updates/7601-vrijwilligers-gezocht-en-handige-toolkits>
All are welcome to join in!

Other Notices

- **Prayer:** Those who feel especially **in need of prayer** either for themselves or for someone else or have a particular prayer request, please contact Peggy Krol, peggy.krol@planet.nl. She and the prayer team will pray accordingly.

- **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:

Coming up

8 April: Women's Fellowship

10 April: Bible Study

13 April: Cooking at de Kloof

14 April: AGM



Church contacts

Interim Moderator, Rev Jimmy Brown jbrown@churchofscotland.org.uk

Locum Minister, Rev Dr. John Bell jl31@tiscali.co.uk

Scriba Team, Mattia Falcone,
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Visit us at
www.erc.amsterdam