

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

English Reformed Church, Amsterdam **14 April 2024**
Third Sunday in Easter

Prelude *Do with Me, God, According to Your Goodness*
- J.G. Walther

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 423 *I know that my Redeemer lives*

1 I know that my Redeemer lives,
glory, hallelujah!
What joy and peace this sentence gives,
glory, hallelujah!
Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground,
glory, hallelujah!
The dead's alive and the lost is found,
glory, hallelujah!

2 He lives, to bless me with his love,
glory, hallelujah!
He lives to plead for me above,
glory, hallelujah!
He lives, my hungry soul to feed,
glory, hallelujah!
He lives, to help in time of need,
glory, hallelujah!

3 He lives, all glory to his name,
glory, hallelujah!
He lives, my Saviour, still the same,
glory, hallelujah!
What joy the blest assurance gives,
glory, hallelujah!
I know that my Redeemer lives,
glory, hallelujah!

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

Reflection

Hymn 162 *The God of Abraham Praise*

1 The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love.
Jehovah, Great I AM!
by earth and heaven confessed,
I bow, and bless the sacred name
for ever blest.

- 2** The God of Abraham praise,
at whose supreme command
from earth I rise, and seek the joys
at his right hand.
I all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame and power,
and him my only portion make,
my shield and tower.
- 3** He by himself has sworn,
I on his oath depend:
I shall, on eagle's wings upborne,
To heaven ascend;
I shall behold his face,
I shall his power adore
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.
- 4** There dwells the Lord our King,
the Lord our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world of sin,
the Prince of Peace;
on Zion's sacred height
his kingdom he maintains,
and glorious with his saints in light
for ever reigns.
- 5** The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
'Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!'
they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God, and mine! –
I join the heavenly praise –
all might and majesty are thine,
through endless days.

First Reading Genesis 45:1-10, OT Page 43

....Joseph, the governor of Egypt, eventually reveals his identity as the youngest son of Jacob whom his brothers had sold as a slave many years before.

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Send everyone away from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

Music in Worship *Prelude on the tune “Antioch” - Dale Wood*

Second Reading Luke 24:13-35, NT Page 86

....in which the risen Jesus, joins disappointed followers on their way home.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ ¹⁹ He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ ²⁵ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their

sight. ³² They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Hymn 416 *Christ is alive!*

- 1** Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2** Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.
- 3** In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4** Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear, the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5** Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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

Prayers of Concern

Hymn 606 *Lord, you always speak in wonders*

- 1 Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders,
unmistakable and clear,
mighty signs that show your presence,
overcoming doubt and fear.
- 2 Lord, you sometimes speak in whispers,
still and small and scarcely heard;
only those who want to listen
catch the all-important word.
- 3 Lord, you sometimes speak in silence,
through our loud and noisy day:
we can know and trust you better
when we quietly wait and pray.
- 4 Lord, you sometimes speak in Scripture,
words that summon from the page,
shown and taught us by your Spirit
with fresh light for every age.
- 5 Lord, you always speak in Jesus,
always new yet still the same:
teach us now more of our Saviour,
make our lives display his Name.

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Siciliana - William Walond

Hymn 425 *The Saviour died, but rose again*

- 1 The Saviour died, but rose again
triumphant from the grave;
and pleads our cause at God's right hand,
omnipotent to save.
- 2 Who then can e'er divide us more
from Jesus and his love,
or break the sacred chain that binds
the earth to heaven above?
- 3 Let troubles rise, and terrors frown,
and days of darkness fall;
through him all dangers we'll defy,
and more than conquer all.
- 4 Nor death nor life, nor earth nor hell,
nor time's destroying sway,
can e'er efface us from his heart,
or make his love decay.
- 5 Each future period that will bless,
as it has blessed the past:
he loved us from the first of time,
he loves us to the last.

Benediction *followed by sung Amen*

Postlude *Christ Is Risen from the Dead - J.S. Bach*

*This morning's service is conducted by the locum,
Rev Dr. John Bell*

The reader is Giles Francis

The elders on duty are Christina Potharst and Elisabeth IJmker

Today

- **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.
- **Junior Church (12-16 years old)** meets today during the latter half of the service. Visitors are welcome to join!
- **The Annual General Meeting** of the ERC church will be held today in the church after the church service.

Upcoming events

- **Taizé service on Thursday, 18 April, 19:30** will be held in our church. A short meditative service inspired by and with music from the Taizé community, to be followed with some time for fellowship with refreshments.
- **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

18 April: Taizé service

22 April: Women's Fellowship

24 April: Bible Study



Church contacts

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

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

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Visit us at
www.erc.amsterdam