

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

English Reformed Church, Amsterdam

21 April 2024

Fourth Sunday in Easter

Prelude *Pastoral* - Herbert Sumsion

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 412 *The strife is o'er, the battle won*

- 1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the Victor's triumph won;
now be the song of praise begun,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 2 The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed;
let shouts of holy joy outburst,
- 3 The three sad days have quickly sped;
he rises glorious from the dead;
all glory to our risen Head!

4 He broke the bonds of death and hell;
the bars from heaven's gateway fell;
let hymns of praise his triumph tell.

5 Lord, by the painful wounds you bore,
death lost its sting for evermore;
living in you, our praises soar.

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

Reflection

Hymn 417 *Now the green blade riseth*

1 Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that is dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:

*Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.*

2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

First Reading Ezekiel 34:7-15, OT Page 817

*...in which the prophet declares God's judgement on those
who are false shepherds.*

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord GOD, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

Music in Worship *Prelude on the tune "Noël Nouvelet"*
- Robert Powell

Second Reading John 10:1-10, NT Page 100
...in which the Jesus takes on the term 'shepherd' for himself.

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the

sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly'.

Hymn 354 *O love, how deep, how broad, how high!*

- 1 O Love, how deep, how broad, how high!
Surpassing thought and fantasy
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.
- 2 For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.
- 3 For us he prayed, for us he taught,
for us the lost with love he sought,
by words, and signs, and actions, he
brought health and hope to set us free.
- 4 For us to wicked men betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.

5 For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

6 To him whose boundless love has won
Salvation for us through His Son,
to God the Father, glory be
Both now and through eternity.

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

Hymn 462 *The King of Love my Shepherd is*

1 The King of Love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed sould he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Peverse and foolish oft I strayed;
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;

and oh, what wonder and delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever!

Prayers of Concern

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

The Lord is My Shepherd - Richard Warner

Hymn 468

Son of God, eternal Saviour

- 1 Son of God, eternal Saviour,
source of life and truth and grace,
Son of Man, whose birth incarnate
hallows all our human race;
great High Priest who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead,
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrongs, and help our need.
- 2 Lord, as you have lived for others,
so may we for others live;
freely have your gifts been granted,
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of sea and land,
we but stewards of your bounty
held in trust at your command.
- 3 Come, Lord Jesus, reign among us,
King of Love, and Prince of Peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,

bid its cruel discords cease.
Yours the prayer, and yours the purpose,
that your people should be one;
grant from heaven our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.

Benediction *followed by sung Amen*

Postlude *Prelude on a tune by Vulpius - Healey Willan*

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

The reader is Veronica Garcia Robles

The elders on duty are Giles Francis and Judi Haynes-Smart

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.

Upcoming events

- **Women's Fellowship (with potluck dinner) on Monday, 22 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, 24 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>
- **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.nachtvandeavluchteling.nl/>

<https://www.nachtvandeavluchteling.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.nachtvandeavluchteling.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

22 April: Women's Fellowship

24 April: Bible Study

11 May: Cooking at de Kloof



Church contacts

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