

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

English Reformed Church, Amsterdam **12 November 2023**
Remembrance Sunday

Prelude *Benedictus* - Alec Rowley

Welcome and announcements

Candle lighting and Call to Worship

Jesus said “This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

**No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.**

(John 15:12-13)



Hymn 161 *O God our help in ages past*

- 1** O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

- 2** Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

- 3** Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Prayer

Act of Remembrance

- *Call to Remembrance*
- *The Tryst*
- *The Silence*

Anthem *If We Believe* - John Goss

Hymn 393 *We turn to God*

1 We turn to God when we are sorely pressed;
we pray for help, and ask for peace and bread;
we seek release from illness, guilt, and death:
all people do, in faith or unbelief.

2 We turn to God when he is sorely pressed,
and find him poor, scorned, without roof and bread,
bowed under weight of weakness, sin, and death:
faith stands by God in his dark hour of grief.

3 God turns to us when we are sorely pressed,
and feeds our souls and bodies with his bread;
for one and all Christ gives himself in death:
through his forgiveness sin will find relief.

First Reading

Micah 4:1-5, OT, page 879

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

² and many nations shall come and say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³ He shall judge between many peoples,

and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more;

⁴ but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own
fig trees,

and no one shall make them afraid;

for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

⁵ For all the peoples walk,

each in the name of its god,

but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God

for ever and ever.

Second Reading

Matthew 5:38-48, NT page 5

³⁸ ‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ ‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Hymn 707

Healing river of the Spirit

- 1 Healing river of the Spirit,
bathe the wounds that living brings.
Plunge our pain, our sin, our sadness
deep beneath your sacred springs.
Weary from the restless searching
that has lured us from your side,
we discover in your presence
peace the world cannot provide.
- 2 Wellspring of the healing Spirit,
stream that flows to bring release,
as we gain our selves, our senses,
may our lives reflect your peace.

Grateful for the flood that heals us,
may your Church live out your grace.
As we meet both friend and stranger,
may we see our Saviour's face.

- 3 Living stream that heals the nations,
make us channels of your power.
All the world is torn by conflict;
wars are raging at this hour.
Saving Spirit, move among us;
guide our winding human course,
till we find our way together,
flowing homeward to our Source.

Sermon

Hymn 713

Come, all who look to God today

- 1 Come, all who look to God today,
stretch out your hands, enlarge your mind,
together share his living way
where all who humbly seek will find.
- 2 Come, young and old of every faith,
bring all your treasures of prayer,
and seek the living Spirit's breath
to realise the truths we share.
- 3 Bring your traditions' richest store,
your hymns and rites and cherished creeds;
explore your visions, pray for more,
since God delights to meet fresh needs.
- 4 Come, trust in God and live in peace,
anticipate that final light
when strife and bigotry shall cease,
and faith be lost in praise and sight. Amen.

Offering *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*
 - Paul O. Manz

Prayer for Others *ending with the Lord's Prayer,*
 in any language or version

Hymn *This is My Song*

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams my holy shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean;
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
but other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

May truth and freedom come to ev'ry nation;
may peace abound where strife has raged so long;
that each may seek to love and build together,
a world united, righting ev'ry wrong;
a world united in its love for freedom,
proclaiming peace together in one song.

Benediction *followed by sung Amen*

Postlude *Voluntary on "Turn Back, O Man"*
 - H. Alexander Matthews

*This morning's service is conducted by the locum,
Rev Dr George Whyte
The reader is Reint Huizinga
The elders on duty are Jaap Maas and Sies Plokker*

Today

- **Farewell to George and Moira Whyte**
This morning, Rev Dr George Whyte will be leading us in worship for the last time in his six weeks of being our locum minister. **We thank George and Moira** for their contributions to the life and welfare of our congregation!
- **Junior Church (12-16 years old)** meets today during the latter half of the service. Visitors are welcome to join!

Upcoming events

- **Women's Fellowship on Monday, 13 November**, from 18:30 - 21:00. For each gathering, we have a potluck dinner together and ask that you bring a dish or something to share with the group. If you have any questions as to what you can contribute, or about your attendance, please contact the hostess, Je Hart (jecorro@hotmail.com).
- **Bible Study on Wednesday, 15 November, 19:30** led by our Interim Moderator, Rev Jimmy Brown. Please note that this will **not** take place at the Manse but on Zoom only via this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87189899249>
- **Taizé Service on Thursday, 16 November, 19:30** will be held in the Roman Catholic Chapel at the Begijnhof. A short meditative service inspired by and with music from the Taizé community, to be followed with some time for fellowship with refreshments.
- **Rebirth, an exhibition of works from Bob Sizoo will run from 20-25 November.** Amsterdam artist Bob Sizoo is a member of our church community, and his works will be on display in the church in the afternoons from Monday-Friday. The exhibition will culminate in a special event with music on the Saturday morning and will raise funds for the Mulanje Mission Hospital.

Church Life

- **Creche:**
Volunteers are needed to restart the creche. Please consider giving of your time in this manner so that our church is a welcoming place for parents with infants. Contact Nancy Sekyere or a member of Consistory to indicate your willingness to volunteer.

- **Audio and video:**
We are looking for volunteers to help with the livestream and audio in order to reach out to those who cannot come to church. If you are interested, please send a message to info@erc.amsterdam
- **The Food Run** which is in its 9th year **needs a few volunteers**. If you own a car and can spare an hour on one Sunday a month right after church to drive the food from pick-up point to the charity, Jeanette Noelhuis (<http://www.noelhuis.nl>), or if you can spare 2 hours on a Thursday morning once a month, you will encounter lots of smiling faces.
Please contact Joe Alibasah, joehennes@yahoo.com
- **Pilgrimage with International Presbytery:**
The International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland with several churches including Amsterdam, hopes to organise a trip to Scotland in June 2024.
If you are interested, please contact Andreas Decker via email andreas.decker@bcdtravel.nl.

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), and 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

27 November: Women's Fellowship
3 December: Advent Sunday Service
3 December: 20's & 30's Lunch
5 December: Coffee Morning
9 December: Cooking at the Kloof
11 December: Women's Fellowship
15 December: Carols by Candlelight
17 December: Caroling on the Spui
17 December: H4H Christmas Service
(Singelkerk)



Church contacts

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Visit us at
www.erc.amsterdam