

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

English Reformed Church, Amsterdam **18 February 2024**

Prelude *Andante* - Alexandre Guilmant

Welcome and announcements

Candle lighting and Call to Worship

And God said,
“Let there be light,” and there was light.
And God saw that it was good.
and he separated the light from the darkness.
And God saw that it was good.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has never overcome it.

Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship you.
(Revelation 15:3–4)

Hymn 124 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
praise God, my soul, for in him are your health and salvation;
come all who hear,
into his presence draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

- 2 Praise to the Lord, who in all things is wondrously reigning,
shields you from harm and is gently yet firmly sustaining.
Have you not seen
how your heart's wishes have been
granted by God's wise ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who with blessing and power will defend
you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you;
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do:
God will for ever befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For
Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever
and ever. 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)

Children's Moment

Hymn 692

Jesus puts a song into my heart

- 1 Jesus puts this song into our hearts,
Jesus puts this song into our hearts;
it's a song of joy no one can take away.
Jesus puts this song into our hearts.
- 2 Jesus teaches how to live in harmony,
Jesus teaches how to live in harmony;
different faces, different races, he makes us one.
Jesus teaches how to live in harmony.
- 3 Jesus teaches how to be a family,
Jesus teaches how to be a family,
Loving one another with the love that he gives,
Jesus teaches how to be a family.
- 4 Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing,
Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing,
changes tears of sadness into rivers of joy.
Jesus turns our sorrow into a dance. (*Hey!*)

First Reading

2 Samuel 24:18-25, OT Page 311

¹⁸ That day Gad came to David and said to him, 'Go up and erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite.' ¹⁹ Following Gad's instructions, David went up, as the LORD had commanded. ²⁰ When Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming towards him; and Araunah went out and prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground. ²¹ Araunah said, 'Why has my lord the king come to his servant?' David said, 'To buy the threshing-floor from you in order to build an altar to the LORD, so that the plague may be

averted from the people.’ ²² Then Araunah said to David, ‘Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him; here are the oxen for the burnt-offering, and the threshing-sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. ²³ All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king.’ And Araunah said to the king, ‘May the LORD your God respond favourably to you.’ ²⁴ But the king said to Araunah, ‘No, but I will buy them from you for a price; I will not offer burnt-offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.’ So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. ²⁵ David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt-offerings and offerings of well-being. So the LORD answered his supplication for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.

Music in Worship *Cantique de Jean Racine* - Gabriel Fauré

Second Reading 1 Timothy 4:6-16, NT Page 206

⁶ If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives’ tales. Train yourself in godliness, ⁸ for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe. ¹¹ These are the things you must insist on and teach. ¹² Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. ¹⁵ Put these things into practice, devote yourself

to them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Hymn 691

Be Still, my Soul

- 1** Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

- 2** Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice, who ruled them while he lived below.

- 3** Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then you shall better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow, calm your fears.
Be still, my soul: for Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

- 4** Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Sermon

Hymn 707 (Tune: CONVERSE) *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.

Prayer of Intercession *Nick Anderton*

Offering *Lord, Make Me to Know Thy Ways - William Byrd*

Hymn 644 *O Jesus, I have promised*

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
be now and always near me,
my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2 Oh, let me feel you near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me, and within;
but, Jesus, draw still nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

3 Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
Oh, speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory
your servants shall be too;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end:
now give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

Benediction *followed by sung Amen*

Postlude *Concerto no.1, 1st movement - J.S. Bach*

*This morning's service is conducted by the locum,
Rev Alan Sorensen*

The reader is Ross Marks

The elders on duty are Andreas Decker and Judi Haynes-Smart

Today

- **Welcome back to Rev Alan Sorensen**

We are pleased to have Rev Alan Sorensen and his wife Judith back with us. Alan will serve as our locum minister until Easter.

Upcoming events

- **Bible Study on Wednesday, 21 February, 19:30** at the Manse or via Zoom, led by Rev Alan Sorensen. All are welcome to join us at the Jan Willem Brouwersstraat 9-2 (Amsterdam) or via this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87189899249>

Church Life

- **Creche (to restart):** Volunteers (with or without children) are required to help with the creche service. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Sekyere or a member of Consistory.

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

21 February: Bible Study
26 February: Women's Fellowship
3 March: Communion service
3 March: 20-30's lunch
5 March: Coffee morning
6 March: Bible Study



Church contacts

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