

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

English Reformed Church, Amsterdam      28 April 2024  
*Fifth Sunday in Easter*

**Prelude**      *Idyll* - Guy Michell

**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 64**      *Sing, all creation, sing to God in gladness*

- 1 Sing all creation, sing to God in gladness;  
joyously serve him, singing hymns of homage,  
chanting his praises, come before his presence:  
*praise the Almighty!*
  
- 2 Know that our God is Lord of all the ages;  
he is our maker: we are all his creatures,  
people he fashioned, sheep he leads to pasture:  
*praise the Almighty!*

**3** Enter his temple, ringing out his praises;  
sing in thanksgiving as you come before him;  
blessing his bounty, glorify his greatness:  
*praise the Almighty!*

**4** Great in his goodness is the Lord we worship;  
steadfast his kindness, love that knows no ending;  
faithful his word is, changeless, everlasting:  
*praise the Almighty!*

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

## **Reflection**

**Hymn 420** *Earth, earth awake; your praises sing: Alleluia!*

**1** Earth, earth, awake; your praises sing: *Alleluia!*  
Greet with the dawn your risen King: *Alleluia!*  
Bright suns and stars, your homage pay: *Alleluia!*  
Life reigns again this Easter day: *Alleluia!*

**2** All nature sings of hope reborn:  
Christ lives to comfort those who mourn:  
First fruit of all the dead who sleep:  
Promise of joy for all who weep:

**3** Winter is past, the night is gone:  
Christ's light, triumphant, pales the dawn:  
Creation spreads its springtime bloom:  
Life bursts like flame from death's cold tomb:

**4** Praise we the Father, Spirit, Son:  
Praise we the victory God has won:  
Praise we the Lamb who reigns above:  
Praise we the King whose rule is love:

**First Reading**      Psalm 19:1-6, OT Page 510

*... which celebrates a cosmic song of praise.*

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup>Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

**Music in Worship**      *Grant Us Thy Holy Peace*

- Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

**Second Reading**      John 15:1-8, NT Page 106

*... in which Jesus compares himself and discipleship  
to the fruitfulness of the natural world*

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away

like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**Hymn 598**                      *Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire*

**1** Come, Holy Ghost, our heart inspire,  
let us thine influence prove;  
source of the old prophetic fire,  
fountain of life and love.

**2** Come, Holy Ghost, for moved by thee  
the prophets wrote and spoke;  
unlock the truth, thyself the key;  
unseal the sacred book.

**3** Expand thy wings, celetial Dove  
brood o'er our nature's night:  
on our disordered spirits move,  
and let there now be light.

**4** God through himself we then shall know,  
if thou within us shine,  
and sound, with all they saints below,  
the depths of love divine.

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

**Hymn 520**                      *Ye who the name of Jesus bear*

**1** Ye who the name of Jesus bear,  
his sacred steps pursue;  
and let that mind which was in him  
be also found in you.

- 2 His greatness he for us abased,  
For us his glory veiled;  
in human likeness dwelt on earth,  
his majesty concealed:
- 3 Nor only as a man appears,  
But stoops a servant low;  
Submits to death, nay, bears the cross,  
In all its shame and woe.
- 4 Hence God this generous love to all  
with honours just hath crowned,  
and raised the name of Jesus far  
above all names renowned:
- 5 That at this name, with sacred awe,  
each humble knee should bow,  
of hosts immortal in the skies,  
and nations spread below.

## **Prayers of Concern**

## **Offering and Prayer of Dedication**

*I Give You a New Commandment - Peter Aston*

## **Hymn 152**

*Praise the Lord, His glories show*

- 1 Praise the Lord, his glories show  
*Alleluia!*  
saints within his courts below,  
*Alleluia!*  
angels round his throne above,  
*Alleluia!*  
all that see and share his love,  
*Alleluia!*

- 2 Earth to heaven, and heaven to earth,  
tell his wonder, sing his worth;  
age to age and shore to shore,  
praise him, praise him evermore!
- 3 Praise the Lord, his mercies trace;  
praise his providence and grace,  
all that he for us has done,  
all he sends us through His Son.
- 4 Strings and voices, hands and hearts,  
in the concert play your parts;  
all that breathe, your Lord adore,  
praise him, praise him evermore.

**Benediction**    *followed by sung Amen*

**Postlude**        *Fugue in E flat - J.S. Bach*

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

*Rev Dr. John Bell*

*The reader is Peggy Krol*

*The elders on duty are Andreas Decker and Nick Anderton*

## **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!

## Upcoming events

- **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](mailto:gillian.walker.ams@icloud.com) Here are some links if you'd like to know more:

<https://www.nachtvandevluchteling.nl/>

<https://www.nachtvandevluchteling.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.nachtvandevluchteling.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](mailto: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

5 May: Lunch 20-30s  
7 May: Coffee Morning  
9 May: Consistory meeting  
11 May: Cooking at de Kloof  
12 May: Sunday Worship  
13 May: Women's Fellowship  
15 May: Bible Study



## Church contacts

<b>Interim Moderator</b> , Rev Jimmy Brown	<a href="mailto:jbrown@churchofscotland.org.uk">jbrown@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>
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