

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

The English Reformed Church, Amsterdam **2 July 2023**
Holy Communion

Prelude *Through Adam's Fall Is All Corrupted* - J.G. Walther

Welcome and announcements

Candle lighting and Call to Worship

Jesus said, ‘I am the bread of life.’
**This is the bread from heaven
given for the life of the world.**

Jesus said, ‘I am the vine and you are the branches.’
**United in him we bear fruit,
the kind that lasts forever.**

Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world.’
**The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness can never put it out.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord:
Let us rejoice in the God who made us.

Hymn 449 *Rejoice! The Lord is King*

1 Rejoice! the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore.
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:

*Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say: Rejoice!*

- 2 Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above:

- 3 His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

- 4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall before his feet:

- 5 Rejoice in glorious hope,
for Christ, the Judge, shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
*We then shall hear the archangels' voice;
The trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!*

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

Reflection

The heavens declare the glory of God,
they demonstrate God's handiwork.
**One day speaks to another
night shares its knowledge with night.**
They do not need speech or language
their voice is not for our ears
**But their message is universal,
it is sent to the ends of the earth.**

The sun finds its home in the sky
it appears like a groom at his wedding.

**It has confidence like a strong man
keen for the course set before him.**

It rises at one end of the heavens
and circuits across the sky.

**It is seen by all in its path
and nothing escapes from its heat. *Psalm 19: 1-6***

Hymn 138 *Nourished by the rainfall.....(from Puerto Rico)*

- 1 Nourished by the rainfall, the earth can come alive;
woodlands swell with splendour, the moors and meadows thrive.
Flowers of every colour now raise their heads in pride,
praising God their maker throughout the countryside.
Each flower has its purpose, and every petal its place,
each celebrates glory, each speaks of God's good grace.
All, all of creation delights to worship the Lord.
Let those in God's image respond in deed and word.
- 2 Birds that wake the morning and feel the evening sky,
sing not to please humans, but to praise God on high.
Nightingale and curlew, the robin, rook and wren,
first rehearse their anthem, then sing it through again.
Each bird has its purpose, and every song has its place,
each celebrates glory, each speaks of God's good grace.
All, all of creation delights to worship the Lord.
Let those in God's image respond in deed and word.
- 3 Every land and nation, each woman, child, and man,
find their root and reason before the world began;
all by God were destined to hear the Saviour's call,
and chose to give him nothing, or gladly give him all.
Each soul has its purpose, and every child has its place,
each celebrates glory, each speaks of God's good grace.
All, all of creation delights to worship the Lord.
Let those in God's image respond in deed and word.

First Reading

Genesis 3: 1-7, OT page 2

This is one of the foundational stories in the Christian tradition about the relationship between men, women and God.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”?’² The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;³ but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die;⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Music in Worship *Through Adam's Fall Is All Corrupted* -
Gottfried August Humilius

Second Reading

Matthew 16: 1-4, NT page 17

...in which Jesus is in dispute with those who try to discredit him.

The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.² He answered them, ‘When it is evening, you say, “It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.”³ And in the morning, “It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.” You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.’⁴ An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.’ Then he left them and went away.

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.

Sermon

Prayer Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Offering *Siciliana* - William Walond

Hymn 348 (Tune: CONVERSE, 547)

Praise the One who breaks the darkness

- 1 Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.
Praise the one who frees the prisoners
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the Gospel,
Healing every dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands
With the very bread of peace.

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.

- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory,
Praise the One who makes us one.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Apostle's Creed (standing)

I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

The Invitation to Communion

The Narrative *or* Story of the Last Supper ...*as recorded by St Paul.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving *beginning with The Sursum Corda*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise**

The Sanctus *(music at Hymn 651)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he, O blessèd is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Consecration

The Agnus Dei

1.+2.+3.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the
1.+2.
sin of the world. Have mer - cy up - on us.
3.
sin of the world. Grant us your peace.

The Sharing of Communion *Prelude on "Converse" - Mark Jones*

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

Closing Prayer

Hymn 147 *All creatures of our God and King (v1-4 & 7)*

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright brother sun with golden beam,
Clear sister moon with softer gleam:
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
- 2 Swift rushing wind, so wild and strong,
high clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
New-breaking dawn, in praise rejoice,
And lights of evening, find a voice:

- 3 Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Fire, with your flames so fierce and bright,
giving to all both warmth and light:
- 4 Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds God's blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
- 7 Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One:

Benediction *followed by sung Amen*

Postlude *Fantasy in A-minor - J.S. Bach/Reger*

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

The reader is Iaroslav Darusenkov

The elders on duty are Heleen Koning and Christina Potharst

A very warm WELCOME to all!

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

If you are new, you might want to visit our Welcome Desk.

This Week

- After the Service **the 20-30's group** will go out for lunch. If you are in that age bracket, you are welcome to join.

- **Bible Study** at the Manse or via Zoom, led by Rev John Bell on 5 July, Wednesday, 19.30 hrs.
All are welcome to join us at the Jan Willem Brouwersstraat 9-2 (Amsterdam) or via this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87189899249>
This is the last Bible Study before the summer break until September.
- **Cooking at the Kloof** on 8 July, Saturday, 9:30 hrs.
On the morning of the second Saturday of the month we meet as volunteers to cook lunch for the homeless at de Kloof. In just 3 hours you can help create a warm nutritious meal for more than 60 people.
Would you like to take part in this creative, culinary experience and get to know, or catch up with, other volunteers? Please send an email to Giles Francis at gilesf@telfort.nl for more information.

Church Life

- **Sunday School Teachers Needed:** Teachers are needed who can each lead Sunday School (4-11 year-olds), ideally, once a month. A curriculum is available to provide weekly story and activity ideas. The time commitment, then, is easily manageable. Please contact Mattia Falcone (mattia.falcone@erc.amsterdam) and John-Harmen Valk (john-harmen.valk@erc.amsterdam) if willing to teach. The hope is to finalize a plan as soon as possible so that Sunday School can begin in September.

Other Notices

- **Prayer:** In this time there may be people who feel especially **in need of prayer** either for themselves or for someone else. If you would like prayer 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:



Church contacts

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