

# Welcome to the



**Scots International  
Church Rotterdam**

- a congregation of the  
Church of Scotland International Presbytery

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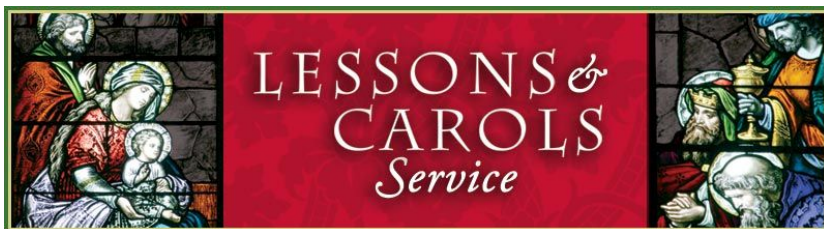
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## **Order of Service for our**



**Sunday 17 December 2017 at 7.30pm**

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Organist: Netty Dijkstra

Choir conducted by: Anneke Pot





Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

### *Welcome and Introduction*

*(Note – there will be a short introduction before  
and a short prayer following each reading  
and praise will not be announced)*

Bidding Praise (Choir):     **The hills are bare at Bethlehem**

The hills are bare at Bethlehem,  
No future for the world they show;  
Yet here new life begins to grow,  
From earth's old dust a greenwood stem.

The stars are cold at Bethlehem,  
No warmth for those beneath the sky;  
Yet here the radiant angels fly,  
And joy burns new, a fiery gem.

The heart is tired at Bethlehem,  
No human dream unbroken stands;

Yet here God comes to mortal hands,  
And hope renewed cries out: "Amen!"

*First Lesson: Genesis 1 : 26 -28 (p.)*

*Esther Abang*

**26** Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

**27** So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**28** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

**Praise: Of the Father's love begotten**

(CH4 319)

1 Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

2 By his word was all created;  
he commanded; it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,  
universe of three in one;  
all that sees the moon's soft shining,  
all that breathes beneath the sun,  
evermore and evermore.

3 O that birth forever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Spirit's power conceiving,

bore the Saviour of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

4 This is he whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord,  
evermore and evermore.

5 All the heights of heaven adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.

6 Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be;  
honour, glory and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore.

*Second Lesson: Genesis 3: 5 - 15*

*William Jardine*

**5** “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

**6** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

**Praise: I cannot tell why he whom angels worship (MP 266)**

1 I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,  
should set His love upon the sons of men,  
or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,  
to bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,  
when Bethlehem's manger was His only home,  
and that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

2 I cannot tell how silently He suffered,  
as with His peace He graced this place of tears,

or how His heart upon the cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,  
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,  
and lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,  
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

3 I cannot tell how He will win the nations,  
how He will claim His earthly heritage,  
how satisfy the needs and aspirations  
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.  
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,  
and He shall reap the harvest He has sown,  
and some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour  
when He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

4 I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,  
when, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation  
when all the hearts of men with love are filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,  
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:  
At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!

*Third Lesson: Genesis 12 : 1 - 3*

*Elaine de Zanger*

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

**Praise: The God of Abraham praise**

(MP 645)

1 The God of Abraham praise,

who reigns enthroned above,  
Ancient of everlasting days,  
and God of love.  
Jehovah, great I AM!  
by earth and heaven confessed;  
we bow and bless the sacred name,  
forever blest.

- 2 The God of Abraham praise,  
at whose supreme command  
from earth we rise, and seek the joys  
at His right hand;  
we all on earth forsake,  
its wisdom, fame, and power;  
and Him our only portion make,  
our shield and tower.
- 3 The God of Abraham praise,  
whose all-sufficient grace  
shall guide us all our happy days,  
in all our ways:  
He is our faithful friend;  
He is our gracious God;  
and He will save us to the end,  
through Jesus' blood.
- 4 He by Himself has sworn –  
we on His oath depend –  
we shall, on eagles' wings upborne,  
to heaven ascend:  
we shall behold His face,  
we shall His power adore,  
and sing the wonders of His grace  
for evermore.
- 5 The whole triumphant host  
give thanks to God on high:  
'Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!'



they ever cry.  
Hail, Abraham's God and ours!  
We join the heavenly lays;  
and celebrate with all our powers  
His endless praise.

*Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11 : 1 – 10*

*Bob Hensen*

**1** A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

**2** The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

**3** and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

**4** but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

**5** Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

**6** The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

**7** The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

**8** The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

**9** They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**10** In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

**Praise: Unto us a boy is born**

(MP 714)

- 1 Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
came He to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation,  
the Lord of every nation.
- 2 Cradled in a stall was He  
with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that He all men surpasses,  
that He all men surpasses.
- 3 Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A Prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'  
All the little boys he killed  
at Bethlehem in his fury,  
at Bethlehem in his fury.
- 4 Now may Mary's Son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us,  
unto the joys above us.
- 5 Alpha and Omega He!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
doth rend the air asunder,  
doth rend the air asunder!

*Fifth Lesson: Luke 1 : 26 – 35*

*Evelyn Koomson*

**26** In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

**Praise: Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! (MP 631ii)**

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of His word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

*Sixth Lesson: Luke 2 : 1- 14*

*Peace Acquaaah*

- 1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.  
2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)  
3 And everyone went to their own town to register.  
4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.  
5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.  
6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,  
7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.  
8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.  
9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.  
10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.  
11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.  
12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."  
13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,  
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

**Praise: O little town of Bethlehem**

(MP 503ii)

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet in your dark streets shining  
is everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.
  
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.
  
- 3 How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.
  
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel.

**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

**16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

**17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

**18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

**19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

**20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Praise: In the bleak midwinter**

(MP 337)

- 1 In the bleak mid-winter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter,  
long ago.
  
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold Him,  
nor earth sustain,  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when He comes to reign;  
in the bleak mid-winter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

- 3 Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but His mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the Belovèd  
with a kiss.
- 4 What can I give Him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give Him –  
give my heart.

*Eighth Lesson: Luke 2 : 25 – 35*

*George Ross*

**25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

**26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

**27** Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

**28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

**29** "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

**30** For my eyes have seen your salvation,

**31** which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

**32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

**33** The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

**34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

**35** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

**Praise: Joy to the world**

(MP 393)

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord has come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
your sweetest songs employ  
while fields and streams and hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness,  
the wonders of His love,  
the wonders of His love,  
the wonders, wonders of His love.

*Ninth Lesson: John 1 : 1 – 14*

*Rev Irene Bom*

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**2** He was with God in the beginning.



**3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

**4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

**5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

**7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

**8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

**9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

**10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

**11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

**12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

**13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

**14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Reflection

### *Offering and Prayer*

**Praise:**           **Hark! The herald angels sing**                    (MP 211)

1 Hark! the herald-angels sing,  
‘Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.’  
Joyful, all you nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’

*Hark! the herald-angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

- 2 Christ by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

- 3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
born that man no more may die;  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald-angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

**Blessing (Choir): An Irish Christmas Blessing  
(Keith & Kristyn Getty)**

1. Now may the fragrance of His peace  
soar through your heart, like a dove released.  
Hide in His wings, Oh weary distant soul;  
He'll guide your spirit home

2. And may His love poured from on high  
flow to the depths of your deepest sigh.  
Oh, come and drink from the only living stream  
and on His shoulder lean.

3. And may the hope that will not deceive  
through every pain bring eternal ease.  
There is no night that can steal  
the promises His coming brings to us.

4. So may His joy rush over you;  
delight in the path He has called You to.  
May all your steps walk in Heaven's endless light,  
beyond this Christmas night.

*Benediction and 3fold Amen*

**Recessional:            Go, tell it on the mountain**

*Chorus:            Go, tell it on the mountain,  
                          over the hills and everywhere;  
                          go, tell it on the mountain  
                          that Jesus Christ is born.*

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.
2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed the Saviour's birth.
3. And, lo! when they had seen it  
they all bowed down and prayed.  
They travelled on together  
to where the babe was laid.
4. Down in a lowly stable  
the humble Christ was born,

and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

*African American Spiritual*

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### **Services over the Christmas Season**

#### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December @10h30**

is both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve  
and this will be reflected in our worship,  
for which we'll be joined by our brothers and sisters  
from Hope International Baptist Church.

#### **Christmas Day @ 10h30**

We will have a short Family Celebration of Christmas  
as we remember the birth of the Christchild in  
Bethlehem.

#### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December @ 10h30**

This service will be for all the family and will (almost!) conclude  
our Christmas celebrations.

#### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January @ 10h30**

#### **Soup & Christmas Pudding Lunch**

We'll celebrate the Epiphany (the coming of the Magi),  
as well as the start of a new year,  
and immediately after the Service we'll have our Soup &  
Christmas Pudding Lunch, to which all are invited.