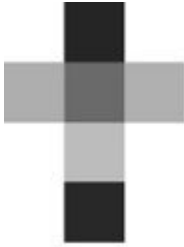


Welcome to the



Scots International Church Rotterdam

- a congregation of the
Church of Scotland International Presbytery

WORSHIP for the 3rd Sunday in



Minister: Rev. Derek G. Lawson
Email: DLawson@churchofscotland.org.uk
Phone: 010 412 5709 or 06 3059 9641

Another Prayer for Advent

God of latent life and growing shoots,
we wait for you in an expectant world:
we long for your wisdom to be at work in our lives
and, with our sisters and brothers,
we yearn for your justice to be done on earth.

From 'Advent readings from Iona'

The Service includes the
Sunday School
Nativity Play
"My Gift"



**Order of Service for the 3rd Sunday in Advent
17 December 2017**

Call to Worship (congregational lines in bold)

Throughout the generations

God has sent the message of hope, peace and joy.

In the words of the prophets,

in acted parable, in history, in nature,

God has revealed a loving intent towards men and women.

Finally, in due time, God sent Jesus into the world to demonstrate in human terms God's way of living and loving.

So today we come to prepare our hearts and minds once more to receive the gospel of hope and healing.

In this place we are invited to open ourselves to the Spirit of God, to prepare a place for God in our lives and allow his joy into our hearts.

Let us come, then, and worship God.

Welcome

Prayer of Approach & Confession - ending with The Lord's Prayer

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.

Praise: Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes (CH4 277)

Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle - a Candle of Joy

Hymn: A candle is burning

(Tune of 'Away in a manger')

3. A candle is burning, a candle of Joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow,
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Sunday School Nativity Play - "My Gift"

including the songs "I'm not a Shepherd" and "We bring him gold"

Praise: Away in a manger (MP 47)

Setting the Scene: **Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11** (p. 748)

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

8 "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.



9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Reflection: Are we prepared to be Agents of Transformation?

What is a Chrismon Tree?

Praise: Infant holy, infant lowly

(MP 342)

Readings: **1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24**

(p. 1188)

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray continually,

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt

21 but test them all; hold on to what is good,

22 reject every kind of evil.

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us.

John1: 6 -8, 19 – 28

(p. 1063)

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

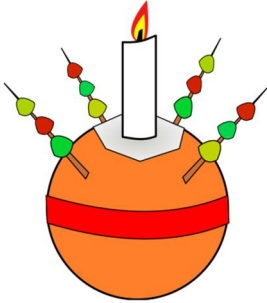
7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

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

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."



22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.' "

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent

25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the

Prophet?"

26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Reflection: Bearing Witness to Jesus

Praise: It's rounded like an orange

(CH4 292)

Christingles

Praise: Make way, make way

(MP 457)

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Church News

Praise: Sing and celebrate

Sing and celebrate

Chorus:

Sing and celebrate (Sing and celebrate)

God gave Jesus (God gave Jesus);

Light for all the world (Light for all the world);

Born at Christmas (Born at Christmastime.)

(Last time only)

Jesus, Light of the world.

God's great gift of love.

Jesus, our light,
shines bright,
what delight;
came to reach us,
teach us,
lead us.

Chorus

God so loved us,
gave us
Jesus.
Lord, we thank you,
love you,
serve you.

Chorus

Benediction and 3-fold Amen

Services over Christmas

As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year,
our service on **24th December at 10.30am** will mark both

the 4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve,
and there will be no Christmas Eve evening service.

The morning service will be joint with the
Hope International Baptist congregation.

On **Christmas Day at 10.30am** we will gather for a
Christmas family celebration.

Are you in need of prayer or pastoral care?

Or do you know someone who is? Please put your requests in the prayer box on Sundays. Prayers can also be sent via the Prayer Coordinator, Irene Jardine, at pray.sicr@gmail.com

For pastoral care or a visit by an Elder or Minister, contact your Elder, the Church Office or the Minister.

Birthdays

This week we congratulate James Essel, Menen Tessema-Betre, Richmond Mensah and Doreen Asare-Awuku-Dankwa on their birthdays. *Would you like your birthday mentioned?*

Inform the Office Team!

What's on the agenda?

Sunday 24 Dec 10.30am Worship for the 4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve – joint service with Hope International Baptist Church
Monday 25 Dec 10.30am Family Celebration of Christmas

Who's who Today

Minister: Rev. Derek Lawson

Elder: Ato Cromwell

Organist: Netty Dijkstra

Bible Reader: Esther Abang

Welcome: Christine & Jean Galloway

Crèche: There is no creche today

Deacons-Counting: Frans v.d. Meer & Bridget Teisman

Door: Fred Booman

Beamer: Daniel de Jong

Recording: Andre v.d. Velden

Hospitality: Mavis & Crew

Flowers: Mavis & Social Team

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Website SICR : www.scotsintchurch.com
Church Office : 010 412 4779
Bank account : NL79 FVLB 0699 642620
ING bank a/c no: NL17 INGB 0000 175187

For the beamer

A candle is burning

1. A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.
2. A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.
3. A candle is burning, a candle of Joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow,
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Summary 10.12.17

Open plate	284.75
Envelopes	644.00
Coffee money	2.70
Soup Lunch	39.10
Sunday School	8.20
Bank (weekly avg.)	282.00
Fixed rental weekly avg.	368.00

Additional rental avg 322.00
 € 1.950.75

Average weekly expenditure € 1,972.00

Church News of 17.12.17 announced by the Elder

- **This Sunday is our busiest Sunday of the year:**
We almost finished our **Christingle & Worship Service**,
This afternoon at 1pm **the Sunday School Christmas party** starts.
The Congregational **Christmas tea starts at 5 pm**. If you have already
brought your scones, cakes, sandwiches, cookies and even aribollen and
whatever goes, leave those in the kitchen or bring from 4.30 pm
At 6pm there will **be Singing in the Cool Area: come rain, come shine**.
Finally at 7.30 pm we will have the **Lessons and Carols Service**
- **The Adult Young Christian Fellowship** continues today at 12:30 in
the attic of the Manse.
- The **Ladies Bible Study** Mondays 8pm @ Rev. Irene Bom's, takes
a 3-week break for the Christmas holidays, resuming on **Monday, 8**
January. All ladies are welcome, also if you can only come every now
and then.
- There are still opportunities for **Bible reading & bringing**
Flowers. Please put your name and email on the notice board.
- If you like to receive the **SICR Weekly Bulletin** in your mailbox
every Thursday, make sure Ato Bob has your email address.
- If you **did not hear these announcements properly**, find
them on the Notice Board downstairs, with a copy to take away.
- ***Please note: the spoken word counts!***