

# Welcome to the



**Scots International  
Church Rotterdam**

- a congregation of the  
Church of Scotland International Presbytery.

Today, we particularly welcome the Congregation of  
Hope International Baptist Church  
and their Pastor, Rev, Dr. Richmond Ofori-Tawiah.

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**FAMILY WORSHIP for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in**



and

**Christmas Eve**

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**Minister: Rev. Derek G. Lawson**

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## **A Final Advent Prayer**

God who comes close,  
help us to perceive your presence in ourselves, in others.  
Help us to speak out, and affirm it;  
help us to keep quiet, and reflect on the mystery.  
And, when the time is right, help us to dance with joy.

From 'Advent Readings from Iona'

**A Joint Family Service with Hope International Baptist Church  
for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve  
24<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

*Call to Worship (congregational lines **in bold**)*

Today our Advent journey ends, for tonight  
is the meeting place of heaven and earth.  
The time when God keeps his appointment to meet his people.

**And as we gather in anticipation,  
not many of us wield power or influence,  
not many consider ourselves holy,  
not all are familiar faces or frequent visitors.**

But, if, on this eve of Christmas,  
only strangers met, that would be enough.  
**For Bethlehem was not the hub of the universe,  
nor was the stable a platform for famous folk.**

In an out-of-the-way place  
which folk never thought to visit –  
there God kept and keeps his promise;  
there God sends his Son.

**So let us draw near and worship.**

Introit: **Mary's boy child**

(led by Sunrise, sung by all)

1. Long time ago in Bethlehem  
so the Holy Bible say,  
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ  
was born on Christmas day.

*Hark, now hear the angels sing,  
a new King born today,  
and Man will live forevermore  
because of Christmas Day.  
Trumpets sound and angels sing,  
listen what they say  
that Man will live forevermore  
because of Christmas day*

2. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
them see a bright new shining star,  
them hear a choir sing,  
the music seemed to come from afar.  
Now, Joseph and his wife, Mary,  
come to Bethlehem that night,  
them find no place to born she child,  
not a single room was in sight
  
3. By and by, they find a little nook  
in a stable all forlorn,  
and in a manger cold and dark  
Mary's little Boy was born.  
Long time ago in Bethlehem,  
so the Holy Bible say,  
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ,  
was born on Christmas Day.

*Welcome*

*Prayer of Approach*

*Rev. Dr. Richmond Ofori-Tawiah*

**Praise: The race that long in darkness pined**

(CH4 290)

1 The race that long in darkness pined  
has seen a glorious light;  
the people dwell in day, who dwelt  
in death's surrounding night.

2 To us a Child of hope is born,  
to us a Son is given;  
him shall the tribes of earth obey,  
him all the hosts of heaven.

3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
for evermore adored:  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the great and mighty Lord.

4 His power increasing still shall spread,  
his reign no end shall know;  
justice shall guard his throne above,  
and peace abound below.

*Lighting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle - a Candle of Love*



**Hymn: A candle is burning**

(Tune of 'Away in a manger')

4. A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

*Prayer of Confession - Elder - and 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.**

**1** After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,

**2** he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

**3**Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.”

**4** But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

**5** “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?’

**6** I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling.

**7** Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ’

**8** “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel.

**9** I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.

**10** And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning

**11** and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. “ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

**16**Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

Reflection: “The house of David”

**Praise: Long ago, prophets knew  
Hodie)**

(Tune: Personent

1. Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new;  
bear God's people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

2. God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
God will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

*Chorus*

3. Mary hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected.

*Chorus*

4. Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!*

**25** Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,

**26** but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—

**27** to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**Luke 1: 26 – 38**

(p. 1026)

**The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

**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.

**36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

**37** For no word from God will ever fail."

**38** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

**Praise: Born in the night, Mary's child**

(MP 62)

- 1 Born in the night,  
    Mary's child,  
a long way from Your home;  
coming in need,  
    Mary's child,  
born in a borrowed room.
  
- 2 Clear shining light,  
    Mary's child,  
Your face lights up our way:  
light of the world,  
    Mary's child,  
dawn on our darkened day.
  
- 3 Truth of our life,  
    Mary's child,  
You tell us God is good:  
prove it is true,  
    Mary's child,  
go to Your cross of wood.
  
- 4 Hope of the world,  
    Mary's child,  
You're coming soon to reign:  
King of the earth,  
    Mary's child,  
walk in our streets again.

Reflection: "Will we say 'Yes' to God?"

**Praise: See him lying on a bed of straw**

(MP 589)

- 1 See Him lying on a bed of straw:  
a draughty stable with an open door;



Mary cradling the babe she bore –  
the Prince of glory is His name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord appear to men –  
just as poor as was the stable then,  
the Prince of glory when He came.*

- 2 Star of silver, sweep across the skies,  
show where Jesus in the manger lies;  
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise  
to see the Saviour of the world!

*O now carry . . .*

- 3 Angels, sing the song that you began,  
bring God's glory to the heart of man;  
sing that Beth'lem's little baby can  
be salvation to the soul.

*O now carry . . .*

- 4 Mine are riches, from Your poverty,  
from Your innocence, eternity;  
mine forgiveness by Your death for me,  
child of sorrow for my joy.

*O now carry . . .*

*Offering - during which we'll sing*    **What child is this?**    (MP 749)

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring Him praise,  
the babe, the Son of Mary.*

- 2 Why lies He in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

*This, this is Christ . . .*

- 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone Him.

*This, this is Christ . . .*

### *Prayer of Dedication*

Anthem (Sonrise): **“Thorns in the straw”**

(v.1 Sonrise; vv.2 & 3 All)

1. Since the day the angel came  
it seemed that everything had changed.  
The only certain thing  
was the child that moved within.  
On the road that would not end,  
winding down to Bethlehem -  
so far away from home.
2. Just a blanket on the floor  
of a vacant cattle-stall;  
but there the child was born.  
She held Him in her arms  
and as she laid Him down to sleep  
she wondered will it always be  
so bitter and so sweet.

### *Chorus*

*And did she see there in the straw  
by His head a thorn?*

*And did she smell myrrh  
in the air on that starry night?*

*And did she hear angels sing  
not so far away  
till at last the sun*

*rose blood red in the morning sky?*

3. Then the words of ancient seers  
tumbled down the centuries:  
A virgin shall conceive  
God with us, Prince of Peace,  
Man of Sorrows, strangest name.  
Oh Joseph, there it comes again  
so bitter yet so sweet.

*(Repeat chorus)*

*Church News*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession*

*Lolly Raja*

**Praise: O come and join the dance**

**(MP 489)**

- 1 LEADER O come and join the dance  
that all began so long ago,  
ALL when Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.  
LEADER Through all the years of darkness  
still the dance goes on and on,  
ALL O take my hand and come and join the song.  
MEN *Rejoice!*  
WOMEN *Rejoice!*  
MEN *Rejoice!*  
WOMEN *Rejoice!*  
ALL *O lift your voice and sing,*  
*and open up your heart to welcome Him.*  
MEN *Rejoice!*  
WOMEN *Rejoice!*  
MEN *Rejoice!*  
WOMEN *Rejoice!*  
ALL *and welcome now your King,*  
*for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.*

2 LEADER Come shed your heavy load  
and dance your worries all away,  
ALL for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.  
LEADER He came to break the power of sin  
and turn your night to day,  
ALL O take my hand and come and join the song.  
*Rejoice . . .*

3 *(Instrumental verse and chorus)*

4 LEADER Let laughter ring and angels sing  
and joy be all around,  
ALL for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.  
LEADER And if you seek with all your heart  
He surely can be found,  
ALL O take my hand and come and join the song.  
*Rejoice . . .*  
*Rejoice . . .*  
*for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem,*  
*for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.*

*Benediction and 3-fold Amen*

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### **Christmas Day Service**

Tomorrow we gather to celebrate Christ's birth  
at 10.30am with a short Family Service.

What better way to start your Christmas Day!

### **Soup & Christmas Pudding Lunch - Sunday 7 January**

This will conclude our Christmas celebrations  
as, having celebrated Epiphany in our worship,  
we will then share a lunch of soup and Christmas pudding.

### **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](mailto: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 Pam Russell, Christa Jacobs, Sophie Tataw Bessem-Tataw, Esther Abang, Iesse Chukwu, Brian Elvis Essel, Robin Polley and Stanley Chege Murithi on their birthdays.

*Would you like your birthday mentioned?*

*Inform the Office Team!*

## **What's on the agenda?**

Monday 25 Dec	10.30am	Celebrate Christmas Day!
Sunday 31 Dec	10.30am	Worship for the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

## **Who's who Today -**

Minister: Rev. Derek Lawson

Elder: Rizal Sebastian

Organist: Amund Roe

Sonrise: Rev. Irene Bom & Crew

Bible Readers: Gordon Crymble OT reading  
Dennis Acquaye NT reading

Crèche: Family Service – no Crèche.

Deacons-Counting: Mavis Fleming & Ato Cromwell

Door: Peace Acquaaah

Beamer: Joshua Paundra

Recording: Andre v.d. Velden

Hospitality: Mavis Fleming & Crew

Flowers: Mavis Fleming & Social Team

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**For the beamer**

**A candle is burning**

1. A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in November'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.
  
4. A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

### **Summary 17.12.17**

Open plate	527.55
Envelopes	431.10
Coffee money (TBA)	0.00
Sunday School (n.a.)	0.00
Bank (weekly avg.)	282.00
Fixed rental weekly avg.	368.00
Additional rental avg	<u>322.00</u>
	<b>€ 1,930.65</b>

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Average weekly expenditure **€ 1,972.00**

Lessons & Carols Service proceeds t.b.a.

**Church News of 24.12.17 announced by the Elder**

- Today's Worship Service falls on **the Fourth and last Sunday of Advent**, while we also celebrate **Christmas Eve** at the same time. **This means there will be no service this evening.**

However tomorrow morning Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December we will have our **Christmas Day Service** at 10:30

- The Young Adults 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 is a **new list for next year's 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!