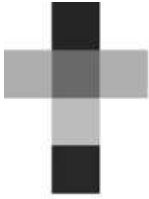


Welcome to the



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



Bible Readings for the Coming Week

- Monday, December 16: Psalm 42; Isaiah 29:17-24; Acts 5:12-16
- Tuesday, December 17: Psalm 42; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Jude 1:17-25
- Wednesday, December 18: Psalm 42; Zechariah 8:1-17; Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34
- Thursday, December 19: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; Galatians 3:23-29
- Friday, December 20: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:18-22; Galatians 4:1-7
- Saturday, December 21: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 2 Samuel 7:23-29; John 3:31-36

A Prayer for Advent

"Help us to be on the look-out for your coming.

Open our eyes to see you in the guise of friend and stranger.

Whatever the path, wherever the place, however you come to us,
may there be a recognition and joyous welcoming. Amen"

Adapted from 'Advent Readings from Iona'

Order of Service for Sunday 15 December 2019

**Order of Service for the 3rd Sunday in Advent
15 December 2019**

Call to Worship (congregational lines in bold)

He is coming in the power and gentleness of the Spirit.

We will always rejoice.

He is bringing good news to the poor.

We will never stop praying.

He is binding up the broken-hearted.

We will give thanks in every circumstance.

He is proclaiming liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

**So we will not quench the Spirit,
nor despise the words of prophets;
but test everything, and hold fast to what is good.**

For God has promised, and God is faithful.

Introit (Choir): **“A Rose shall Bloom”**

**A rose shall bloom in a lonely place,
The wild shall echo with sounds of joy,
For heaven's own gladness its bounds shall grace,
And forms angelic their songs employ.**

**And Lebanon's cedars shall rustle their boughs
And fan their leaves in the scented air:
and Carmel and Sharon shall pay their vows,
And shout, for the glory of God is there.**

**Oh, say to the fearful, be strong of heart;
He comes in vengeance but not for thee,
For thee He comes His might to impart
To the trembling heart and the feeble knee**

**The blind shall see, and the deaf shall hear,
The dumb shall raise their notes for Him,
the lame shall leap like the unharmed deer,
and the thirsty shall drink of the living stream.**

**The ransomed of God shall return to Him,
With a chorus of joy to a gladsome lay;**

**No eye with a tear of grief shall be dim,
For sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Welcome & Prayer of Approach

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

Hymn: 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.

Children's Message

Hymn Jesus love is very wonderful

(SSS2014 nr49)

Jesus love is very wonderful
Jesus love is very wonderful
Jesus love is very wonderful
Oh, wonderful love!

So high you can't get over it
So low you can't get under it
So wide you can't get round it
Oh, wonderful love!

New Chrismon Symbols

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.**

Hymn 277 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

Readings: **Isaiah 35: 1 – 10** (p. 720)

- 1** The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus,
- 2** it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.
- 3** Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
- 4** say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."
- 5** Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
- 6** Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
- 7** The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

9 No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,

10 and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Matthew 11: 2 – 11

(p. 976)

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples

3 to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see:

5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

7 As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?

8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces.

9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

10 This is the one about whom it is written: “ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’”

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Reflection: *“Promotion of God’s kingdom”*

Hymn: Long ago, prophets knew

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
hear 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?*

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

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

Chorus

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!*

Sunday School Video: *"This is the stable"* (by Cynthia Cotten)

Hymn: I'm not a shepherd (SSS 42) Children will sing-then adults

I'm not a shepherd, nor a wise man,
Nor an angel, that is true.
I'm not a shepherd, nor a wise man,

Nor an angel, nor are you.

But we can follow their example
We can worship Jesus too.
And like the shepherds,
the wise men and the angels

We can also spread the good news:

God has sent His Son.
God has sent His Son, I tell you.
God has sent His Son.

Reading: **Psalm 103: 8 - 14**

(p. 606)

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,
abounding in love.

9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to
our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his
love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our
transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has
compassion on those who fear him;

14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Reflection: *“Everlasting Father”*

Hymn 458 At the name of Jesus

(Tune: Camberwell)

Offering & Prayer of Dedication

Anthem (Choir): **“Father God I wonder”**

(MP 128)

Father God, I wonder how I managed
to exist without the knowledge of Your
parenthood and Your loving care.

But now I am Your son, I am adopted in Your family,
and I can never be alone 'cause,
Father God, You're there beside me.
I will sing Your praises, I will sing Your praises,
I will sing Your praises for ever more.
for ever more.

Church News

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn: Sing and celebrate

*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 Christmas time).*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Jesus, our light,
shines bright,
what delight;
came to reach us,
teach us,
lead us;
<i>Sing and ...</i> | 2. God so loved us,
gave us,
Jesus;
Lord we thank you,
love you,
serve you;
<i>Sing and ...</i> |
|--|---|

Ending: Jesus, Light of the world,
God's great gift of love.

Benediction and 3-fold Amen

Christmas Services

Christmas Day at 10h30 - A Family Celebration of Christmas
Sunday 29 December at 10h30 - Family Celebrations continue!
Sunday 5 January at 10h30 - Worship for Epiphany
- followed by Soup & Christmas Pudding Lunch

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

Names will only be mentioned in the printed version in the church

Would you like your birthday mentioned? Inform the Office Team!

What's on the agenda?

Tuesday 17 Dec 19h30 Pilgrims Fellowship Group
 19h45 Consistory Meeting
Sunday 22 Dec 10h30 Family Christingle Service
 17h30 Christmas Tea – and Carols for All
Wednesday 25 Dec 10h30 Family Celebration of Christmas

Who's who Today - Minister: Rev. Derek Lawson

Elder: Mavis Fleming

Children's message: Licia Knoester

Organist: Netty Dijkstra

Bible Reader: Catherine Laverty

Welcome: Ranee Damanik & John Essel

Crèche: Chanté Fleming & TBA

Offering & Counting: Bridget Teisman & Esther Abang-Karreman

Door: Ato Cromwell

Beamer: Daniel de Jong

Sound: Stanley Murithi

Hospitality: Irene Jardine & Crew

Flowers: Annemarie Smith

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Church News for 15.12.19 to be read by the Elder

Please take the Order of Service home, so you can refer to it and follow the Daily Bible reading shown on the front. Please note on our agenda is the following: See Order of Service.

The **Wednesday Pilgrims Fellowship Group** continues on 18th December @ 19:45 at Rev. Irene's Bergpolderpolderstraat 53a. Weather permitting; the Pilgrims plan to walk around the Kralingse Plas after Church today!

The form for adherents to request to be placed on the Electoral Roll is available from Ato Bob. If you don't know whether you are a Member or an Adherent, Ato Bob can help you to find out.

Both the Crèche and the Youth Group urgently need additional volunteers. See Christa, Saskia or Ato Bob.

Look for a sample of the SICR Weekly Bulletin on the notice board and subscribe with your email to editor-herald@live.com