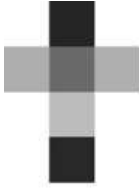


# Welcome to the



## Scots International Church Rotterdam

a congregation of the  
Church of Scotland International Presbytery

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

Email: [DLawson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:DLawson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Phone: 010 412 5709 or 06 3059 9641

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### **A Christmas Blessing**

*"The wisdom of the wonderful counsellor guide you,  
the angels of the Lord of Hosts guard you,  
the strength of the mighty God uphold you,  
the love of the everlasting Father enfold you,  
the joy of the Prince of Peace be yours,  
this Christmastide and for ever. Amen."*

*Ian Cowie*

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## **Order of Service for Christmas Day 2019**

Merry  
Christmas

## Christmas Day 2019



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

On this Christmas Day, we are called together to celebrate with joy

the fact of God's coming to us and for us in Jesus Christ.

**We are here to acknowledge God's gracious gift, his protection, deliverance, and guidance.**

But we are also warned not to rest on our laurels, as if free from responsibility:

**for in this time of worship**

**we are invited to be open to God's message, and to offer ourselves, our gifts, our talents to be used for God's glory.**

Come, then, with exultation and anticipation and worship God.

*Introit: Advent Fanfare (Franz Kanefzky)*

*Welcome & Lighting of the Jesus Candle*

**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.
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.
5. We honour Messiah with Christ's candle flame,  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all ye Faithful, rejoice in this night,  
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

*Prayer of Thanks and Praise*

*Matthew Sebastian*

### **Hymn 321 Come and join the celebration**

*Come and join the celebration,  
it's a very special day;  
come and share our jubilation,  
there's a new King born today!*

- 1 See the shepherds  
hurry down to Bethlehem;  
gaze in wonder  
at the Son of God who lay before them.  
*Come and join . . .*
- 2 Wise men journey,  
led to worship by a star,

kneel in homage,  
bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so  
*Come and join . . .*

3 'God is with us,'  
'round the world the message bring;  
He is with us,  
'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are pealing.  
*Come and join . . .*

### *An All-age Christmas Message*

### **Hymn 294 On Christmas night all Christians sing**

1 On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
on Christmas night all Christians sing,  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.

2 Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad,  
then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?

3 When sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its places;  
when sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place;  
heaven and earth with joy may sing,  
all for to see the new-born King.

4 All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night;  
'Glory to God, on earth be peace,  
goodwill to all shall never cease.'

**Reading:     John 1: 1 – 14**  
1063)

(p.

**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.

**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 331 Unto us a boy is born!**

*Readings: Isaiah 52: 7 – 10 (p. 741)*

**7** How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

**8** Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

**9** Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

**10** The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

*Luke 2: 8 – 20 (p. 1027)*

**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."

**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.

## **Hymn 310 See him lying on a bed of straw**

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.





[Refrain:]

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God from God,  
Light of Light  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created; [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God  
in the highest': [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

*Benediction and 3-fold Amen*

*Recessional: We wish you a merry Christmas (Arthur Warrell)*

### **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.

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

Sunday 29 December 10.30am - Christmas Celebrations

continue!

Sunday 5 January 10.30am – Worship for Epiphany including  
the Sacrament of Holy Communion  
and followed by the Soup & Christmas Pudding Lunch

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

Elder: Rizal Sebastian

Organist: Jan Hendrik v.d. Kamp

Saxophone: Jaco Jacobs

Bible Reader: Bob Hensen

Welcome: Pam & Steve Russell

Offering & Counting: Molly Foster & ???

Door: Ato Cromwell

Beamer: Daniel de Jong

Sound: Stanley Murithi

Hospitality: ???

Flowers: Christmas decorations by the Flower Arrangers

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**E-mail SICR** : [info@scotsintchurch.com](mailto:info@scotsintchurch.com)

**Website SICR** : [www.scotsintchurch.com](http://www.scotsintchurch.com)

**Church Office** : 010 412 4779

**Bank account** : NL62 RABO 0373741006

**ING bank a/c no:** NL17 INGB 0000 175187

**Church Entrance** : Schiedamsesingel 2, Rotterdam.

**Church Office Address:** Schiedamsesingel 6, 3012 BA Rotterdam.