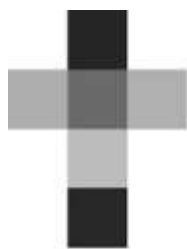


# Welcome to the



## Scots International Church Rotterdam

a congregation of the  
Church of Scotland International Presbytery

**Interim Moderator: Rev. Jan Steyn** (Paris CoS)

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**Sunday, May 3, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Monday, May 4, 2020:** Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23; 1 Peter 5:1-5

**Tuesday, May 5, 2020:** Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21

**Wednesday, May 6, 2020:** Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28

**Thursday, May 7, 2020:** Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15

**Friday, May 8, 2020:** Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Exodus 3:1-12; Acts 7:1-16

**Sat. May 9, 2020:** Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59

### **A Thought for the Week Ahead**

When we who believe in Jesus  
embrace the idea of being as close to Him as a branch is to a vine,  
our faith is strengthened and enriched.

(Amy Boucher Pye)

**Communion & Worship for 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020  
led by the Rev. Irene Bom**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

*Call to Worship—Psalm 22:23-31 (congregational lines **in bold**)*

Come to us even now O Lord of Life,  
**And fill this place with your presence!**

We praise your name and rejoice in your love,  
**We stand in utter amazement of who you are!**

Everyone who calls upon you will find fulfilment,  
**They will rejoice forever, because you are God!**

Rejoice and give thanks!  
**Halleluiah! Amen!**

Welcome

**CH4 153: Great is Thy faithfulness**

<p>1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.</p> <p>[Refrain:] Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided -- great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me</p>	<p>2 Summer and winter, and seed-time and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]</p> <p>3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. [Refrain]</p>
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*Opening Prayer*

*Children's Message*

**Song: Big Strong Tree**

CHORUS:

Lord, You are like a big strong tree  
And You help us live fruitfully  
Lord, You are like a big strong tree  
And You help us live for You.

2. You are like the vine  
We will grow if we live in You  
You are like the vine  
(Repeat Chorus)

1. You are like the dew  
You make us all blossom like the lilies  
You are like the dew  
(Repeat Chorus)

3. You are like the stream  
You fill us up with life-giving water  
You are like the stream  
(Repeat Chorus)

[https://www.irenebom.com/sss\\_2014/sss\\_2014\\_song.php?sss\\_2014\\_id=8](https://www.irenebom.com/sss_2014/sss_2014_song.php?sss_2014_id=8)

*Prayer of Confession - The Lord's Prayer (Elder)*

Readings: **Isaiah 5: 1 – 7 & John 15: 1 – 8**

**Isaiah 5: 1 – 7**

The Song of the Vineyard

1 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

3 "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

4 What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?

5 Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.

6 I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it."

7 The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

**John 15: 1 – 8**

The Vine and the Branches

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

## Reflection

### MP 792: You are the vine

<p>You are the vine, we are the branches, keep us abiding in You. You are the vine, we are the branches, keep us abiding in You.</p> <p>Then we'll grow in Your love, then we'll go in Your name, that the world will surely know that You have power to heal and to save.</p>	<p>You are the vine, we are the branches, keep us abiding in You.</p>
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## Offering & Dedication

### Invitation to Communion

#### CH4 510: Jesus calls us here to meet him (communion hymn)

1. Jesus calls us here to meet him  
as, through word and song and prayer,  
we affirm God's promised presence  
where his people live and care.  
Praise the God who keeps his promise;  
praise the Son who calls us friends;  
praise the Spirit who, among us,  
to our hopes and fears attends.
2. Jesus calls us to confess him  
Word of Life and Lord of all,  
sharer of our flesh and frailness  
saving all who fail or fall.  
Tell his holy human story;  
tell his tales that all may hear;  
tell the world that Christ in glory  
came to earth to meet us here.
3. Jesus calls us to each other:  
vastly different though we are;  
race and colour, class and gender  
neither limit nor debar.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger;  
join the hands of age and youth;  
join the faithful and the doubter  
in their common search for truth.
4. Jesus calls us to his table  
rooted firm in time and space,  
where the church in earth and heaven  
finds a common meeting place.  
Share the bread and wine, his body;  
share the love of which we sing;  
share the feast for saints and sinners  
hosted by our Lord and King.

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*[Communion liturgy adapted from a liturgy prepared by Beth Fender, OSL; Elizabeth Moore, OSL; and Dwight Vogel, OSL of The Order of Saint Luke. Peace prayer is written by John L. Bell]*

When circumstances and concern for the common good keep us from gathering to share Holy Communion in person, we gather to pray, separated in the body, yet ONE IN THE SPIRIT and ONE IN CHRIST JESUS!!

For this part of the service you'll need a candle and matches (or a small lamp), a Bible, a small glass of water and a piece of bread.

God is with us.

**We are not alone.**

Christ is with us.

**The Risen One has met us, blessed and fed us on the road that leads us home.**

The community of the Holy Spirit is with us.

**We gather with the communion of the saints in light throughout history and with God's people around the world.**

With brothers and sisters, absent in body but united in Spirit, we pray:

Holy One, Trinity of grace and power,  
Maker and Mother, Beloved and Lover, Father and Friend:

Thanks be to you, O God!

You are ever the father who gives us bread, not stones.  
You are the mother who never forgets we're her own.  
From the beginning of life to the closing of time, you are the One who is with us to the end.

And so, with all who breathe on earth and all who sing in heaven, we praise your name and join Creation's song:

CH4 807

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above you heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Light your candle.

In the stillness become aware of the power and presence of the Risen Christ.

*Silence*

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

Pick up your Bible.

Here in our hands is the story of God's covenant of steadfast love with God's people. We are assured of God's presence with us at all times and places – even in the midst of fear and difficulty. Sit quietly and absorb the stories of God's love and grace that can sustain you wherever you are.

*Silence*

Jesus shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (John 7:37-38)

Hold the glass of water in your hands.

Without water, there can be no life. In creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the water and brought forth light. God brought John to the Jordan River to call us to repentance. We were nourished in the water of the womb. We were baptized by water and the Spirit into God's family. Water reminds us of the gifts of creation that God has so abundantly given us, and of the love and grace we have all received.

Drink the water slowly.

Feel it flow into your body. Know that God's love is flowing into your body and soul right now.

*Silence*

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

Take a piece of bread in your hands.

Christ broke bread and fed the multitudes. Christ broke bread and formed a new covenant with his closest friends and with all who break bread in remembrance of him. Christ was made known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Bread reminds us that, just like individual grains of wheat are gathered together to make a single loaf, we who are scattered are one body in Christ.

Break and eat the piece of bread that you are holding.

Remember the times you have received bread in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Remember those who gathered with you.

Remember the presence of Christ in that moment. Be assured that Christ is with you in every moment of your life. Sit silently and allow Christ's love to surround you.

*Silence*

Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, you speak to us words of life.

Call forth in us rivers of living water, and feed our deepest hunger.

In trying times, in times of loneliness or confusion, in times we feel most alone, remind us that we are never alone, for you are with us always.

In these days of anxiety and uncertainty, may we go forth in Christ's name into all our interactions (digital or otherwise) as a people of hope. May we be for the world the body of Christ, broken and shared to be a blessing for all.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

We say together,

**On our heads and our houses  
the blessing of God;  
on our coming and going,  
the peace of God;  
in our life and believing,  
the love of God;  
at our end and new beginning,  
the arms of God to welcome us  
and bring us home.**

*Prayers for the People (Minister)*

*Church News*

**CH4 517: Fight the good fight**

1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right; lay hold on life, and it shall be your joy and crown eternally.	3 Cast care aside, lean on your Guide; his boundless mercy will provide. Trust, and your trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace, lift up your eyes and seek his face; life with its way before us lies; Christ is the way, and Christ the prize.	4 Faint not, nor fear; his arms are near; he does not change, and you are dear; only believe, and Christ shall be your all in all eternally.

**St. Patrick's Breastplate**

Christ be **with** me / Christ **before** me  
Christ **behind** me / Christ **within** me  
Christ **beneath** me / Christ **above** me  
Christ on my **right side** / Christ on my **left side**  
Christ in **quiet** / Christ in **danger**  
Christ in the **mouth** of a **friend** or a **stranger**

**Benediction and threefold Amen**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

**Are you in need of prayer or pastoral care?**

Or do you know someone who is  
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:  
Mike Lang, Marvellous Tijjudy Okoro  
& Gwen Wenfua on their birthdays.  
*Would you like your birthday mentioned?  
Inform the Office Team!*

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

**Sunday 10 May live video Service by SICR Worship Team**

### **The Service today**

Minister: Rev. Irene Bom  
Elder: Ruud Witte  
Children's Message: Licia Knoester  
Organist: Jan Hendrik v.d. Kamp  
Church News: Bob Hensen  
Bible Reader: Molly Foster  
Sound & Recording: Stanley Murithi

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- **Our Treasurer Jim** Taylor cautioned the Consistory on the negative effect of the current lack of Sunday collections and asked the Consistory to encourage members to contribute by Bank Transfer as much as possible.
- We hope that you understand that Jim's message is relevant for us as all, so please send your contribution through your banking app and mention your envelope number if that applies.

This was again an online Praise and Worship Service by SICR. If you would like to join us in reading the Bible or help with the singing etc., contact the Church Office by mail.