

Welcome to the Scots International Church Rotterdam

A congregation of the Church of Scotland International Presbytery

Sunday 4th December 2022

May we know the blessing of God as we worship together.



Advent - 'Light in the darkness'.

During the Advent season **morning services at 10.30am**
and **evening services at 7.30pm**

Advent 3: 11 December Luke 2:25-32: Simeon

Advent 4: 18 December Matt 2:1-12: Wise men. There is also the Sunday **School Nativity** in the morning and a **Sunday School party** in the afternoon. At 17.30 a High tea/potluck, with an opportunity for carol singing around the community and a carol service in the evening 7.30pm.

You can download study materials for house groups or personal study from the church website

Something to Celebrate

Congratulations to Patience Asabea on her birthday this week.

THANK YOU

To everyone who made the yesterday's Christmas fayre possible.

To ponder

The twin themes of the angels' song - "Glory to God" and "peace on earth" - are the essence of the Gospel that will be lived out in the child born as Saviour, Messiah and Lord. (Terry Hinks)

Consistory - Focus meeting

Friday 9 December at 7.30pm

House Groups/Bible Studies

Pilgrims House Group Mondays at 7.30pm at Bergpolderstraat 53A, 3038KB Rotterdam. Contact Irene Bom on 06-52576892

Manse House Group Schiedamse Vest 121 3012BH Tuesdays 7.30pm. Contact Graham (contact details in the insert)

If you are interested in house groups email Marten & Mikayla our Fellowship Coordinators (mikayla.souman@gmail.com)

Friday OPEN Afternoons



Tour the building, take a moment to pray, meet up with friends, enjoy a chat with others, you will be welcomed from 12:00 to 15:30 with tea/coffee. Soup available €2

Pray for today's Worship Team

Preacher: Irene Bom
Prayer: Dennis Acquaye
Children's talk: Irene Bom
Reader: Rinus Dekker
Music: Jan-Hendrik v.d. Kamp
Beamer & Live streaming: Rizal Sabastian
Sound: Stanley Murithi
Hospitality: Rebecca Taylor and family
Flowers: Family Taylor
Counting: Dennis Acquaye & Mavis Fleming
Welcoming: Frieda Enow & Pam Russell
Door: Bob Hensen

The SICR Christmas Lunch in the Lower Hall



Share in fellowship after the Christmas Day Service.
€5 tickets **now** on sale

Contacts Details

See this week's insert for contact details

Daily Devotional Readings

Monday 5	Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	<div>Do you want a daily 'Thought for the Day' direct to your mobile? Then join the 'Thought for the day' WhatsApp group by texting: 06 3059 9641</div> 
Tuesday 6	Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21	
Wednesday 7	Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37	
Thursday 8	Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10	
Friday 9	Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18	
Saturday 10	Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18	

Welcome to the Service

Today is the second Sunday in Advent and our theme continues to be 'Light in the Darkness'.

At the beginning of the service you will be asked to stand as the Bible is brought forward.

Introit by Choir

1. While we are waiting, come
While we are waiting, come
While we are waiting, come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

2. While we are waiting, come!
With pow'r and glory, come
With pow'r and glory, come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

3. While we are waiting, come!
Come Saviour, quickly come
Come Saviour, quickly come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting, come!

Claire Cloninger © 1986 Word Music, LLC

Call to worship

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

Response: **And hope to every discouraged heart.**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

Response: **And peace to every conflicted soul.**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

Response: **And joy to every downcast spirit.**

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

Response: **And love and light to everyone.**

Welcome

CH4 189

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here;
come bow before Him now
with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground;
be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him;
be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

David J Evans © 1986 Thankyou music

Opening prayer, Prayer of Confession and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav-
en. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen

Children's Talk

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.
by Irene Bom

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, 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 Saviour 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 favour 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.

CH4 359

1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love,
hallelujah for evermore.

2 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace,
hallelujah for evermore.

3 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy,
hallelujah for evermore.

Traditional, from Cameroon

Sermon

CH4 180

Give thanks with a grateful heart'
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son. (Repeat)

*And now let the weak say 'I am strong',
let the poor say 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord
has done for us. (Repeat)*

Henry Smith ©1978 Integrity Hosanna! Music

We give our offering as we listen to Jan-Hendrik

Dedicating the Offering

Invitation to the Communion

CH4 510

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.

Service continues overleaf

3. Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed 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
on 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.

John Bell & Graham Maule © WGRG The Iona Community

Sacrament of Communion

Communion responses (Congregation in bold)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

... and sing your praise in the angels' song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.** Jesus,
redeemer of the world, **grant us peace.**

The Peace

The Choir - Let all mortal flesh keep silence (CH4 666)

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descending,
come our homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, we now receive him,
in the body and the blood;
as he gives to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
streams before him on the way,
as the Light of light descending
from the realms of endless day,
conquers all the power of darkness
drives the gloom of hell away.

4. At His feet the six winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
'Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Lord Most High!'

Liturgy of St James

Prayer for Others

CH4 301

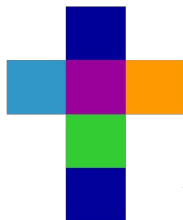
1. Hark the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
*Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!'*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King.'*

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings,
Mild, He lays His glory by; Born that men no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing: 'Glory to the new-born King.'

Charles Wesley (1709-1788)

Benediction and Threefold Amen
Please remain standing as the Bible is carried out.



Scots International Church

Extra, extra read all about it!!

December's mission offering from the Youth Group

Message from the Youth Group

This year Sri Lanka saw the onset of a severe economic crisis which caused scarcity of some essential food items, fuel, cooking gas and medicines. In addition, import restrictions were imposed due to a shortage in foreign currency and inflation has continued to increase. The price of items has shot up, double and sometimes triple the cost. This includes rice, which is one of the staple foods, school supplies such as paper and stationery, and cooking gas.

The **December mission offering** will be supporting the St Andrews Scots Kirk Colombo in two mission projects.

- **Helping Hands project**, established in 2006.
providing a monthly allowance to (currently) 25 recipients of different ethnicity and religions.
The allowance is used to pay for food, utility bills, medicine, clothing etc.
(LKR 2,500-3,000/ EUR 6-8 per month)

- **Lend a Hand project**, established more recently this year in response to the economic crisis. This involves the collection and distribution of dried food items to those in need (rice, lentils etc).

Please consider these projects in your giving in the **mission offering** month of December.
A small amount, for those who can spare it, can really go a long way to help.

A longer read about the December Mission offering but worth it

Helping Hands Project

St Andrew's Scots Kirk - Colombo - Sri Lanka



St Andrew's Scots Kirk was founded in the late 19th century and prospered during the colonial and post-colonial era of our country. Although the original foundation stone was laid in 1842 in Fort, the church was relocated to its present location of 73, Galle Road, Colombo 3. The original congregation comprised of Scotsmen who came to the Island to manage the tea plantations and to work in the Agency Houses in Colombo which ran the plantations.

With the nationalization of the plantations and Agency Houses there was a mass exodus of Scottish nationals and numbers in church dropped. Subsequently under Rev. Andrew Baillie the church was opened to locals and took on the identity of International and Inter-denominational as the government also changed its policies and opened the country to foreign nationals who arrived here to work on different projects initiated by the government. Today, the church congregation consists of both local and foreign nationals.



The **Helping Hands Project** is one of the Mission projects of St. Andrew's Scots Kirk. It was set up in 2006 in response to constant requests to help families struggling to make ends meet. The project grew steadily over the years reaching out to 90 families. When the main donor pulled out a few years later, the number of beneficiaries were reduced. Now there are 25 recipients of different ethnicity and religions who have been screened by the Helping Hands team before being included into the project. The monies disbursed monthly is used to pay for food, medicines, clothing, utility bills. Single women receive LKR 2500 while single mothers and homeless beneficiaries receive LKR 3000.

With the donations we receive, we hope to increase their monthly allowance. During the Sinhala and Tamil New Year (in April), they are all given hampers. We are also hoping to organize a Christmas party in our church hall with food and drinks and a variety of games and give hampers to the recipients of this project.



This year, Sri Lanka saw the onset of a severe economic crisis which caused a scarcity of some essential food items, fuel, cooking gas and medicines.

Import restrictions have been imposed due to a shortage in foreign currency and inflation has steadily soared, reaching 73% in August 2022. Prices of food items have shot up, for example, rice, which was in the range of LKR 85-90 increased to LKR 200-270, a 400-gram milk food packet which earlier cost LKR 345 increased to LKR 1200. The United Nations reported in July 2022 that because of the food price inflation and widespread commodity shortages, three in ten households, or some 6.26 million Sri Lankans, are food insecure – they are unsure of where their next meal is coming from (UN News, 2022). Fuel and gas prices were raised to a record high. The prices of basic school supplies have at least doubled. In this scenario, the poor people of our country face severe hardships. Although the Covid situation has

improved, many poor people have lost their jobs and small enterprises have shut down.

In these difficult times, the Helping Hands Project, with limited funds, is solely dependent on donors to assist to take this project forward and help the needy and vulnerable people in Sri Lankan society.



In other news....

Are you in need of prayer or pastoral care?

Or do you know someone who is? Would you like the minister to phone or visit you? Please send in your requests via email, text, phone or PM through the church Facebook page. Contact details below. Prayers can also be sent via the Prayer Coordinator, Irene Jardine, at pray.sicr@gmail.com

The International Presbytery Plan

Over the last year the International Presbytery (IP) have been discussing the future make-up of the Presbytery in the years to come. Due to lack of ministers in training and many retirements pending the whole of the Church of Scotland has had to review how we allocate Church of Scotland ministers. This involves linkages - (two churches under one minister), unions (where one or more churches are closed and meet in one building), and sadly churches closed and dissolved. This is happening all over Scotland and the IP has had to do the same. The central committee of the Church of Scotland have decided that the IP can only have 5 full time ministers spread over the 14 charges. This will lead to linkages and sadly, as is the case with Gibraltar, closure.

The English Reformed Church, Amsterdam has been permitted to call a non-Church of Scotland minister. They will remain a Church of Scotland congregation. We here at SICR continue as we are with a full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament.

All that being said the Plan is reviewed annually but for the time being nothing changes for the SICR. I would ask you to keep in your prayers those congregations that will face readjustment and the pain, joy and challenges that comes with change.

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