

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

English Reformed Church, Amsterdam

19 May 2024

DAY OF PENTECOST

Prelude *Sonata no.3 in D minor, vivace* - J.S. Bach**

Welcome and announcements

Candle lighting and Call to Worship

The day is coming, says the Lord,
when I will pour out my Spirit upon you.

**Young people will see visions,
old folk will dream dreams.**

Signs will appear in the heavens,
signs too on earth below.

This is the purpose of God
God's promise will be fulfilled.



Hymn 584

Like fireworks in the night

Scotland/England

- 1 Like fireworks in the night
the Holy Spirit came;
disciples' fears took flight
when touched by fronds of flame:
and suddenly the world was young
as hope embraced a Saviour's claim.
- 2 For Jesus bade them dare
to venture, as they should;
his love taught them to share
their homes, possessions, food:
the mind of Jesus gave them speech
all tribes and peoples understood.

3 Thus God our spirits lifts
fresh daring to inspire;
as common folk get gifts
to change the world entire:
the tongues of flame at Pentecost
ran through the world like forest fire.

Prayer *ending with the Lord's Prayer (in any language)*

Reflection

Hymn 613 *Gracious Spirit, hear our pleading*

Tanzania

1 Gracious Spirit, hear our pleading;
fashion us all anew.
It's your leading we are needing;
help us to follow you.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

2 Come to teach us; come to nourish
those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful; may they flourish,
strengthened by grace unpriced.

3 Guide our thinking and our speaking
done in your holy name.
Motivate us in our seeking,
freeing from guilt and shame.

4 Keep us fervent in our witness;
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zeal and fitness,
which you alone assure.

First Reading Acts 2:1-13, NT Page 115
The coming of the promised Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?’ ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ ¹³ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

Music in Worship *Wana Baraka* - Kenyan folk song
arr. Shawn L. Kirchner

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-13, NT Page 170
... *the variety of gifts the Spirit gives*

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the

same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Hymn 604 *Holy Wisdom, lamp of learning* *USA/Netherlands*

- 1 Holy wisdom, lamp of learning,
bless the light that reason lends.
Teach us judgment as we kindle
sparks of thought your Spirit sends.
Sanctify our search for knowledge
and the truth that sets us free.
Come, illumine mind and spirit
joined in deepest unity.
- 2 Vine of truth, in you we flourish;
by your grace we learn and grow.
May the word of Christ among us
shape our life, your will to know.
Joined to Christ in living, dying,
may we help the Church convey
witness to the saving gospel,
bearing fruit of faith today.
- 3 Holy God, the hope of nations,
tune us to your righteous will,
as the symphony of ages
claims our best, our finest skill.

Shape our search for peace and justice
through prophetic deed and word.
Christ, conduct us, set our rhythm,
that God's praise be ever heard.

Sermon *...followed by a time of silence for reflection*

Hymn *God's Spirit is here* *India/Germany*
 (Tune: 127)

- 1** God's Spirit is here
that never alone
the followers of Christ
need face the unknown.
The fount of all living
is leading the dance,
dismantling old systems
that earth might advance.
- 2** She banishes sin,
eradicates fear,
lets hesitant faith
affirm God is here
till, living like Jesus
and blessed by his name,
we bind up the broken
and lift up the lame.
- 3** She defuses hate
and raises the dead,
becalming life's storms,
removing all dread.
So that we might serve God
confirmed from above,
she tests us with fire
and enflames us with love.

4 So, seek out the lost
and share out the pain,
and love at such cost
that all rise again.
God's lamp-lighting spirit
is dancing the way
from dark into dawning,
from night into day.

Text: based on a litany from an ecumenical college in Bangalore 1992

Prayers of Concern *Ross Marks*

The Offering and Prayer of Dedication

God's Gonna Set This World on Fire - Trad. Spiritual,
arr. Moses Hogan

Hymn 617 Great and deep the Spirit's Purpose
(Tune: Ode to Joy) *Aotearoa NZ/ Germany*

1 Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
hidden now in mystery;
nature burst with joyful promise,
ripe with what is yet to be.
In a wealth of rich invention,
still God's work of art unfolds;
barely have we seen and faintly,
what God's great salvation holds.

2 Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
making Jesus seen and heard.
Every age of God's creation,
grasps new meaning from the Word,
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us
Your new work begun today;
eyes and ears and hearts are open,
teach us what to do and say.

3 Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
all God's children brought to birth;
freed from hunger fear and evil
every corner of the earth;
and a million, million voices
speak with joy the Saviour's name;
every face reflects his image,
never any two the same.

4 Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
nothing shall be left to chance;
all that lives will be united
in the everlasting dance;
all fulfilled and all perfected,
each uniquely loved and known;
Christ in glory unimagined
once for all received his own.

Benediction *followed by sung Amen*

Postlude *Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God - Dietrich Buxtehude*

*This morning's service is conducted by the locum,
Rev Dr. John Bell*

The reader is Christopher Vipond Davies

The elders on duty are Christina Potharst and Judi Haynes-Smart

****Musical note:**

*This morning's prelude is an apt musical reflection of the
story of Pentecost, when all the people spoke in their own language
and yet, touched by the Holy Spirit, were able to understand each
other. The music is a trio structure, with three completely independent
voices, each exuberantly going its own way, and yet, miraculously, all
harmonizing together into one whole.*

Today

- **Crèche for infants and toddlers (0-4 years old) is available this morning and every Sunday worship service.** The crèche is located in a room on the left side of the building. If you need directions, please ask one of the elders on duty.

Upcoming events

- **Minister Nominee**
The Nominating Committee has determined a minister nominee who will lead worship **next Sunday, 26 May**. Following the service, a congregational vote will take place regarding the minister nominee. Having devoted much prayerful consideration to discerning a minister nominee whom it thinks best suited to lead the congregation, the Nominating Committee hopes that it has served the congregation well.
- **Night of The Refugee on 15-16 June.**
This year a group will again be walking 40/20/10 km through the night, raising money to support refugees all over the world. If you'd like to join our group and help refugees please get in touch with Gillian on gillian.walker.ams@icloud.com
All are welcome to join in!

Other Notices

- **Prayer:** Those who feel especially **in need of prayer** either for themselves or for someone else or have a particular prayer request, please contact Peggy Krol, peggy.krol@planet.nl. She and the prayer team will pray accordingly.
- **Finance:** Please note that besides the weekly collection in church, you can also donate to the ERC's General Fund, Mulanje Mission Hospital and Maintenance Fund via bank transfer:
Maintenance Fund: *Stichting Friends of the English Reformed Church* NL90 ABNA 0624 1800 69
General Fund or Mulanje Mission Hospital: *English Reformed Church* NL44 ABNA 0547 6235 50

Alternatively, please feel free to use these QR codes for a Tikkie or to use PayPal:

Coming up

26 May: Minister Nominee
27 May: Women's Fellowship
29 May: Bible Study
16 June: Concert, ERC Choir



Church contacts

Interim Moderator , Rev Jimmy Brown	jbrown@churchofscotland.org.uk
Locum Minister , Rev Dr. John Bell	jl31@tiscali.co.uk
Scriba Team , Mattia Falcone, Sies Plokker	scriba@erc.amsterdam
Treasurer , Charles Vanderpuye	treasurer@erc.amsterdam
Director of Music , Richard Zook	organist@erc.amsterdam
Church Officer , Susan Polstra	churchofficer@erc.amsterdam
Webteam , Laura Elliott, Annemiek Sinnige	webteam@erc.amsterdam

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