

Service of the Word

Racial Justice Sunday

February 9th, 2025



Grac⁺e
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

GATHERING

Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

This is the day which the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SONG Here in this place (Gather us in) Words & Music: Marty Haugen

Here in this place new light is streaming

Now is the darkness vanished away

See in this space our fears and our dreamings

Brought here to you in the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken/ Gather us in, the blind and the lame

Call to us now and we shall awaken/ We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery

We are the old who yearn for your face

We have been sung throughout all of history

Called to be light to the whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty

Gather us in, the proud and the strong

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly

Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water

Here we will take the bread of new birth

Here you shall call your sons and your daughters

Call us anew to be salt for the earth

Give us to drink the wine of compassion

Give us to eat the bread that is you

Nourish us well and teach us to fashion

Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining

Not in some heaven light years away

But here in this place the new light is shining

Now is the kingdom, now is the day

Gather us in and hold us forever/ Gather us in and make us your own

Gather us in, all peoples together/ Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

Opening Prayer

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence is kept and then the Collect (Prayer for the Day), is prayed.

Collect Prayer (Racial Justice Sunday):

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past and in our present day, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

¶ Saying Sorry to God

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption. We confess our sin in penitence and faith. You made us to be one family, yet we have divided humanity. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You were born a Jew to reconcile all people, yet we have brought disharmony amongst races.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You rejoice in our differences, yet we make them a cause of enmity.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG Humble King

Words & Music: Brenton Brown

O kneel me down again / Here at Your feet
Show me how much You love / Humility
O Spirit be the star / That leads me to
The humble heart of love / I see in You

Chorus You are the God of the broken / The friend of the weak
 You wash the feet of the weary / Embrace the ones in need
 I want to be like You Jesus / To have this heart in me
 You are the God of the humble / You are the humble King

Here in the dusty ground / I bow with kings
Where wise men laid before their offerings
I lay no golden crown here at your feet
Just this my broken life I offer thee

Chorus

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

A Vision of God in the Temple

6:¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' ⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' ⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NRSV)

Living by Faith

5:¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

SONG I see the Lord

Words and Music: Chris Falson

I see the Lord / Seated on the throne exalted
And the train of His robe / Fills the temple with glory
And the whole earth is filled / And the whole earth is filled
And the whole earth is filled / With His glory

Chorus Holy holy holy holy / Holy is the Lord
 Holy holy holy holy / Holy is the Lord of lords

Gospel Reading Mark 12:28-31 (NRSV) *The Laws of Love*

12:²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

SONG We are one in the Spirit

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes

We are One in The Spirit, we are One in The Lord,
we are One in The Spirit, we are One in The Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day berestored.

Chorus And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *Chorus*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride. *Chorus*

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come

And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only son

And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. *Chorus*

Affirmation of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Prayers are offered, and this response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

The prayers may end with:

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

NOTICES

An Act of Commitment to Racial Justice

Dear people of God, we stand in the shadow of the prophets crying out for justice and peace. God calls us to be a people of reconciliation, serving a world in need. Courageous women and men have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out for the least and the lowest. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love and moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another. We are all called to the work of racial justice and reconciliation.

Will you persevere in prayer and fellowship?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim the good news of justice and reconciliation in both word and deed?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge and address the prejudices that keep you from loving all God's children?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to see Christ in all persons, and value those who are different from you?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek to mend what is broken by human sin and greed?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you strive to speak words that liberate and heal and break the bonds of silence?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek the perfect love which casts out all fear?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you work toward dismantling the sin of abuse of power?

With the help of God, I will.

May almighty God empower us to continue his work of reconciliation, give us the courage to overcome fears and embody love, give us grace to grow in self-awareness and personal integrity, and strengthen us to seek the unity that is in Christ, that we may rejoice with all God's children as disciples of God's Son. **Amen.**

HYMN Christ be our Light

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,/ light for the world to see.

Chorus Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled./ Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us./ Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing for food, many are hungry./ Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,/ shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are homeless./ Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,/ walls made of living stone.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people,/ many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,/ making your kingdom come.

Chorus

SHARING THE GRACE and GOING OUT TO SERVE

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen

Let us bless the Lord: **thanks be to God.
Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Morning worship: 2nd Sundays, Morning Prayer/Service of the Word at 10:30 am;
4th Sundays (Holy Communion) at 10:30 am, all at St Maarten-langs-de-weg
(Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.

Evening services: with the Martiniwijkgemeente: 1st Sundays at 17:00 in the Martinikerk.

Web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>; Facebook (Grace Church Groningen).

Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Kramer; gracesafeguarding@gmail.com

Safeguarding in Grace Church: <https://gracechurchgroningen.com/caring/safeguarding/>

Diocese: <https://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-diocese-europe>

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Our worship services and ministry in Groningen are made possible by people voluntarily offering their time, talents and financial support. As God has blessed us, so we thank Him by giving accordingly. To help support Grace Church, there is an opportunity to put an offering in the collection basket during the service or near the exit afterwards.

It is also possible to donate by electronic transfer to
Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church),
account: NL 67 RABO 03012946 23. Or with this QR code:



Grace Church Forthcoming Services & Activities:

- Sunday 23 February, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 2 March, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.
- Sunday 9 March, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 23 March, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 6 April, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.

For info on Home Groups, Bible Study gatherings & other events, please do ask us!