Christmas Day

All Age Service with Holy Communion

Name above all names

December 25th, 2025

Gracie
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you.**

CAROL **O holy night** Words: P Cappeau, tr JS Dwight; Music: AC Adam

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, / O hear the angel voices!
O night divine,/ O holy night / O night divine!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men from Orient land
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Gathering

We meet to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.
The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory.

Lighting of Wreath

Prayer Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: 'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Saviour of the world. *cf Matthew 1.21*

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. **Lord, have mercy:** Lord, have mercy.

Absolution.

Collect Prayer (Christmas Day)
Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen.**

The Nativity Story

Gospel Readings Luke 2:1-20 (NIV) *The Birth of Jesus*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:
Glory to you, O Lord.

Reader 1 (Joseph): 2:[1] In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. [2] (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) [3] And everyone went to their own town to register. [4] So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. [5] He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

***Carol* O little town of Bethlehem** Words: P Brooks, Music: R Vaughan-Williams

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in: be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Reader 2 (Mary): 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

CAROL **Away in a manger** Words & Music: WJ Kirkpatrick

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Reader 3 (Angel): 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."

CAROL **While shepherds watched** Words: N Tate, Music: Este's Psalter

While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, / and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread / had seized their troubled mind);
'glad tidings of great joy I bring / to you and all mankind.

Reader 4 (Shepherd): 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.

CAROL **Kling klokje klingelingeling** Words & Music: Benedikt Widman

Kling klokje klingelingeling
Kling klokje kling
Laat de wereld horen
Jezus is geboren
Voor die blijde klanken
Willen wij God danken
Kling klokje klingelingeling
Kling klokje kling

Reader 5 (Shepherd): 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Name above all names

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NIV) *The darkness turns to light*

9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection together

HYMN **Christ is the world's true light** Words: GW Briggs; Music: J Crüger

Christ is the world's true light, / Its Captain of salvation,
The Day-star clear and bright / Of every land and nation;
New life, new hope awakes, / Where peoples own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks, / And night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet, / Their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete, / From sunrise to its setting:
When Christ is throned as Lord, / Men shall forsake their fear,
To ploughshare bear the sword, / To pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name / Unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame / That hinder to enthrone thee;
The world has waited long, / Has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong, / Come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Prayers

This response may be used: Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**.

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

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *cf Ephesians 3*

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9.6*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Preparation of the Table

CAROL God rest ye merry, gentlefolk

Words: Trad English Carol; Music: Trad English melody, arr J Stainer

God rest ye merry, gentlefolk, let nothing you dismay!
for Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray:

Refrain *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;*
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heav'nly Father a blessèd angel came;
and unto certain shepherds, brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:

Refrain

The shepherds at those tidings rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm and wind
and went to Bethlehem straightway this blessèd babe to find:

Refrain

But when to Bethlehem they came whereat this infant lay;
they found him in a manger where oxen feed on hay,
his mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray: *Refrain*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place!
and with true love and fellowship each other now embrace,
this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface: *Refrain*

Taking of the Bread and Wine (Prayer E: Christmas)

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in God's presence among us, as our Saviour 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Communion is shared.

After the post-communion prayer.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

NOTICES

CAROL **Joy to the World** Words: Isaac Watts; Music: George Frideric Handel

Joy to the world! / the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, / And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! / the Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, / rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, / Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world / with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, / And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Blessing

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Prayer

**Lord Jesus, you call us and send us by name.
As we rejoice in your name, the one above all names, may we leave this place with confidence in who you are and who we are in you. In all that we are and all that we do, may your name be honoured, on this Christmas Day and always. Amen.**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.

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Grace
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

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.

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 11 January, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 25 January, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 8 February, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 22 February, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.

Movie Nights: Dates t.b.a.; movies at 19:30 at SKLO Bldg.

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