A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

3rd Sunday of Advent

14 December 2025

Grace

GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

Carol: Once in Royal David's City

1. Solo Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

2. Choir He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. All And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

4. All Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heav-en,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prayer **Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**

Bidding Prayer

Lesson 1: Genesis 3: 8-15, 23-24

8 The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at
the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the
LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man,
and said to him, 'Where are you?' 10 He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the
garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' 11 He said, 'Who
told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I
commanded you not to eat?' 12 The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be
with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' 13 Then the LORD God said to
the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent
tricked me, and I ate.' 14 The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have
done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon
your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put
enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will
strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' 23 Therefore the LORD God sent the
man forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.
24 He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the
cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

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

Carol: This is the truth sent from above

1. Choir This is the truth sent from above,
the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from the door
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

2. Duet The first thing that I will relate,
is that God did man create;
the next thing which to you I tell -
woman was made with him to dwell.

3. All And at this season of the year
our blest Redeemer did appear,
He here did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

4. All Thus He in love to us behaved,
to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way,
be pleased to hear what He did say.

Lesson 2: Genesis 22: 15-18

[15] The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, [16]and said, 'By myself I have sworn,' says the LORD 'Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, [17]I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, [18]and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

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

Carol: O come, all ye faithful

1. All O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
Come and behold him
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

2. Choir God of God,
Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not
the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
begotten not created;
O come, let us adore Him…

3. **All** Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of
heaven above,
Glory to God,
glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him…

Lesson 3: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

[2]The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined. [6]For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7]His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Carol: What child is this?

1. All What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
come, greet the infant Lord,
the babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Choir Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the Son of Mary!

3. All So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
come rich and poor, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high:
the Virgin sings her lullaby.
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the Son of Mary!

Lesson 4: Micah 5: 2-4

[2]But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. [3]Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. [4]And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

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

Carol: O little town of Bethlehem

1. Choir 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.

2.All O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

3. Choir How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still,
the dear Christ enters in.

4. All 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.

Lesson 5: Luke 1: 26-35, 38

[26] In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee
called Nazareth, [27]to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the
house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. [28]And he came to her and said,
'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' [29]But she was much perplexed
by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. [30]The angel said
to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. [31]And
now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him
Jesus. [32]He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the
Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. [33]He will reign over
the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' [34]Mary
said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' [35]The angel said to her,
'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will
overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called
Son of God. [38]Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with
me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Carol: Away in a manger

1. Choir 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.

2. All 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.

3. All 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.

Lesson 6: Luke 2: 1, 3-7

[1] In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. [3]All went to their own towns to be registered. [4]Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. [5]He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. [6]While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. [7]And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

Carol: Silent Night

1. All Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Choir Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. All Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Lesson 7: Luke 2: 8-16

[8] In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9]Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: [11]to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. [12]This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' [13]And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, [14]'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

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

Carol: While shepherds watched their flocks

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

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

3. Choir Thus spoke the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

4. All 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

Lesson 8: Matthew 2: 1-12

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6"'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' 9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Carol: God rest ye merry gentlefolk

1. All God rest you merry, gentlefolk,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. Choir From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name: *Refrain*

3. All 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

4. Choir 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

5. All 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*

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

The Collect Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And 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 forever. Amen.

All stand.

Lesson 9: John 1: 1-14

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being [4]in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5]The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. [6] There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7]He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. [8]He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. [9]The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. [10] He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. [11]He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. [12]But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, [13]who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. [14] And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

Carol: Hark the herald angels sing

1. All 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 th' angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born king.

2. Choir 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 th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born king.

3. All 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 we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born king.

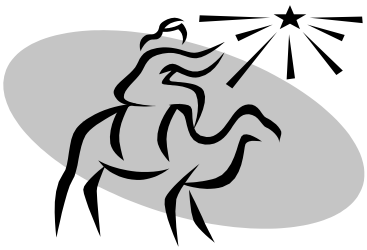
Notices

Blessing

Dismissal

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

Please join us after the service for coffee, tea and fellowship.
We invite you to our Christmas Service and Events



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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:

- Thursday 25 December (Christmas), 10:30: All Age Grace Christmas Service (with Holy Communion), Old Catholic Church.
- 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.

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

Movie Nights: Dates t.b.a., at 19:30, SKLO Bldg (Kraneweg 33, 9718 JE Groningen)