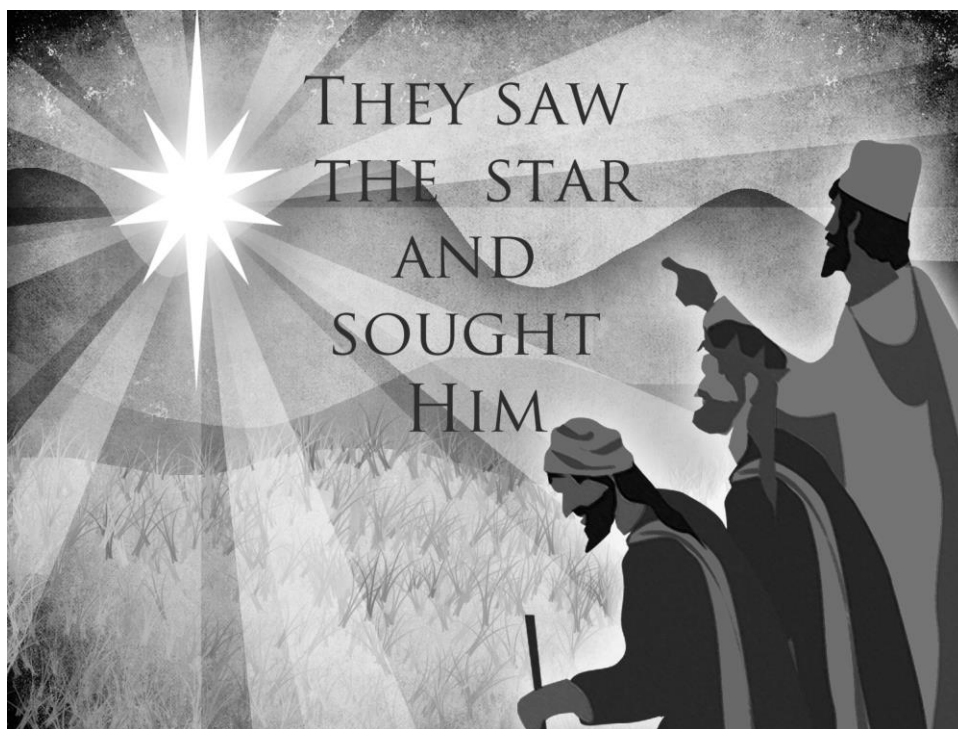


Morning Prayer

January 8th, 2023

Epiphany Sunday



Grac⁺e
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

WELCOME

O Lord, open our lips

All: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Your light springs up for the righteous

All: **and all peoples have seen your glory.**

SONG Light of the world (Sing Hallelujah) Words & Music: Andrew Bergthold

Light of the world, treasure of Heaven

Brilliant like the stars, in the wintery sky

Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness

Shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight

Light of the world, from the beginning

The tragedies of time, were no match for Your love

From great heights of glory, You saw my story

God, You entered in, and became one of us

Chorus

Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah

Sing hallelujah for the things He has done

Come and adore Him, bow down before Him

Sing hallelujah to the light of the world

Light of the world, crown in a manger

Born for the Cross, to suffer, to save

High King of Heaven, death is the poorer

We are the richer, by the price that He paid, ohh *Chorus*

Light of the world, soon will be coming

With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own

Through clouds He will lead us, straight into glory

And there He shall reign, forevermore / Oh, forevermore *Chorus*

CONFESSION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins. *cf Titus 2.11-14*

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:

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

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:

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

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:

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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, king of the nations, to you be praise and glory for ever. From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world. As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit that we may witness to your gospel and sing your praise in all the earth. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN As with gladness men of old Words: WC Dix; Music: C Kocher

As with gladness men of old / did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, / leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we / evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped / Saviour, to thy lowly bed;
there to bend the knee before / him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet / ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare / at thy cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, / pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, / Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, every day / keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past, / bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, / where no clouds thy glory hide.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6 *The glory of Zion*

60:¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look about you:

all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

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

HYMN We three kings Words: WC Dix; Music: C Kocher

We three kings of Orient are, / bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain, / following yonder star:
Refrain O Star of wonder, star of night, / star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, / guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem plain, / gold I bring to crown him again,
king for ever, ceasing never / over us all to reign: *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I, / incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, / worship him God most high:
Refrain

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume / breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, / sealed in the stone-cold tomb:
Refrain

Glorious now behold him arise, / King and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia'; / 'Alleluia,' the earth replies: *Refrain*

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV) *The Magi visit the Messiah*

2:¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me,











so that I too may go and worship him.’⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

CANTICLE

The Benedictus

All: **This is the Christ, the Chosen of God
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, 
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,** 
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old 
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 **To show mercy to our ancestors,** 
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: 
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 **Free to worship him without fear,** 
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, 
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 **To give his people knowledge of salvation** 
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God 
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 **To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death,**  **and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Luke 1.68-79

All: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All: **This is the Christ, the Chosen of God
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

SERMON

SONG My Lighthouse Words & Music: Gareth Gilkeson & Chris Llewellyn

In my wrestling and in my doubts/ In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, You won't let go / In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

Chorus My Lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (oh oh)
I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh...)/Safe to shore (Oh-oh...)
Safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings/ With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh/ You are my light

Chorus

Bridge Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms x4 / *Chorus*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All: **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**

Collect Prayer (Epiphany Sunday)

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Believing the promises of God, 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.**

NOTICES

SONG **Shout to the North** Words & Music: Charlie Hall

Men of faith rise up and sing / Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak / In your brokenness complete

Chorus Shout to the north and the south
 Sing to the east and the west / Jesus is Savior to all
 He's Lord of heaven and earth

Rise up women of the truth / Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power / Of our awesome King of love

Chorus

Rise up church with broken wings / Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high / By his grace again we'll fly →

Bridge We've been through fire, we've been through pain
We've been refined by the power of Your name
We've fallen deeper in love with You
You've burned the truth on our lips *Chorus*

THE GRACE

**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**

DISMISSAL

May Christ, who sends us to the nations, give us the power of his Spirit. **Amen.**
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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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.

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

Morning worship: 2nd Sundays, Holy Communion (said) at 9:00 am & 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 Het Pand (Jan & Feb) and Martinikerk (Mar to June).

Web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/> Facebook (Grace Church Groningen). Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Working Days: Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Grace Church Forthcoming Services and Events:

- **Sunday 22 January, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Wednesday 25 January, 18:30: Alpha Course Welcome Evening, SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33.**
- **Sunday 5 February, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Het Pand.**
- **Sunday 12 February, 9:00: Grace Holy Communion (said), Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 12 February, 10:30: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 26 February, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.**
- **Sunday 5 March, 17:00: Grace & Martini International Service, Martinikerk.**