HOLY TRINITY UTRECHT
ALL SAINTS AMERSFOORT
ANGLICAN CHURCH ZWOLLE
GRACE CHURCH GRONINGEN

MAY 2018



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#### **NEWSLETTER MAY 2018**



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If you have contributions for the next Newsletter we need to receive them by the middle (15<sup>th</sup>) of the previous month.

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Cover picture: Pentecost by Iain McKillop, first shown in Guilford Cathedral in England.



#### EVENTS IN MAY

#### FOR WORSHIP SERVICES SEE PAGE 22-23

10-20 May "Thy kingdom come" collective prayer p.18

16 May Anglican Church Music Evening. Starts at 8PM p.13

at Koestraat 2 Zwolle

#### Coming up

23 June CrossFit Men's group p.22

## BIBLE STUDY GROUPS UTRECHT

- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 20:00 in the parsonage (door open 19:45)
- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 10:00 12:00; Kloostertuin 15, 3994 ZJ Houten. Contact: Susette Fink-Jensen
- The 'Betuwe Bible Study Group': Waalbandijk 48, 4175 AC Haaften.

Contact: Isabel & Hans Baars, 0418 592525.

## BIBLE STUDY GROUPS GRONINGEN

- Tuesdays (fortnightly) at 19:00 and at other times: Grace Housegroup Bible
   Studies. For information, contact Dragos Stefanescu at dragos.stef@gmail.com.
- Fridays at 15:30 (during term): **Prayer Group**, place each week t.b.a on Facebook group page.



# CHAPLAIN'S LETTER THE WORD CREATES SPACE...

This month's Chaplain's Letter was written by the Rev. David Phillips, Utrecht Chaplain

The following article was written by David Phillips for the Zwolle ecumenical magazine Gaandeweg (april/mei/juni 2018 edition) on the subject above, which was the theme of this edition. They asked for 350-400 words. The Dutch translation, which follows, is what

appears in the magazine.

Through the Word, God created heaven and earth. But we cannot see heaven until God opens our eyes by steps. The created order itself can begin to open our eyes to what is beyond. We are filled with awe on a mountaintop and when we see birds enjoying the freedom of flight. But the Word spoke more explicitly to reveal that space. By the Word, Jacob dreamt of a ladder between earth and heaven and cried out, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it!" [Gen 28:16] The Word told Moses to set apart a place of contact between heaven and earth. Jerusalem became that place until a Samaritan woman was told by Jesus, "the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father...but in spirit and in truth." [Jn 4:21] The Word was made flesh that we might see and enter that greater space. [Jn 3] The Word on the Cross brought heaven into earth. The Word raised up and ascended brings us into heaven by steps.

By that Word an inner space is opened, "The Kingdom of heaven is within you." [Lk 17:21] The Word within creates space, first reconciling ourselves to ourselves, to



breathe more freely and dwell in greater spaciousness within. The Word creates space in thought and action, ever dismantling too narrow visions of God, too narrow visions of love. The Word in our mouths opens up dialogue, permeating barriers between people. The Word creates hearts of compassion, that step back to give others space to grow. The Word creates space for friendship, "because I tell you what I am doing." [Jn 15:15] The Word creates space for marriage, to prefigure a loftier union. The Word builds up the Church, an everexpanding spiritual temple. The Word creates societies with space to think and love and worship, for its citizens to be free as a bird.

In a mountaintop vision John saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." [Rev 21:1]

The unbounded Word is forever creating new space.

#### Woord dat ruimte schept

Door het Woord schiep God de hemel en de aarde. Maar we kunnen de hemel niet zien totdat God onze ogen stap voor stap opent. De geschapen orde zelf kan onze ogen beginnen te openen voor dat wat aan haar voorbijgaat. We voelen ons vervuld van ontzag wanneer we op een bergtop staan en wanneer we vogels zien genieten van hun vrije vlucht. Maar het Woord sprak explicieter om de ruimte van de hemel te onthullen. Door het Woord droomde Jakob van een ladder naar de hemel en riep uit: "Op deze plaats is de Heer aanwezig. Dat besefte ik niet" [Genesis 28:16]. Het Woord sprak tot Mozes dat hij een plek van contact moest maken tussen hemel en aarde. Jeruzalem werd die plek, totdat een Samaritaanse vrouw werd verteld: "er komt een tijd dat jullie noch op deze berg, noch in Jeruzalem de Vader zullen aanbidden ...maar in geest en waarheid" [Johannes 4:21]. Het Woord werd vlees zodat we deze grotere ruimte zouden kunnen zien en binnengaan [Johannes 3]. Het Woord aan het kruis bracht de hemel op aarde. Het Woord dat is opgewekt en opgevaren, brengt ons stap voor stap richting de hemel.

Door dat Woord wordt een innerlijke ruimte geopend: "Het koninkrijk van God ligt binnen uw bereik" [Lucas 17:21]. Het Woord in ons schept ruimte, als eerste door onszelf met onszelf te verzoenen, ons vrijer te laten ademen en een grotere ruimte van binnen te ervaren. Het Woord schept ruimte in onze gedachten en daden, het ontmantelt steeds weer te beperkte beelden van God en te beperkte beelden van liefde. Het Woord in onze mond maakt dialoog mogelijk en doordringt barrières tussen mensen. Het Woord schept harten vol mededogen, die een stap terug doen om anderen de ruimte te geven om te groeien. Het Woord schept ruimte voor vriendschap, "omdat ik alles wat ik van de Vader heb gehoord, aan jullie bekendgemaakt heb" [Johannes 15:15]. Het Woord schept ruimte voor het huwelijk, het laat zien hoe een verheven verbintenis eruit ziet. Het Woord bouwt de kerk op als een zich steeds verder uitbreidende geestelijke tempel. Het Woord schept samenlevingen waarin er ruimte is om na te denken, lief te hebben en te aanbidden, waar de burgers zo vrij als een vogel zijn.

Op een bergtop zag Johannes "een nieuwe hemel en een nieuwe aarde, want de eerste hemel en de eerste aarde zijn voorbij" [Openbaring 21: 1].

Het grenzeloze Woord zal altijd ruimte scheppen.



## BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE

This was unfortunately not included in the April Newsletter as it should have been, but it is good to read, albeit a bit late.

## DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Bishop in Europe:

The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" (2 Cor. 5:19)

It is of the nature of this 'Easter Message' that it is written, published and mostly read in Lent, well before Easter. So I invite us to think about the joy of the resurrection in the context of the events leading up to the crucifixion of our Lord.

In the celebration of the Church's liturgy there is the greatest dramatic distance between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. On Good Friday we recall the arrest of Jesus, Peter's betrayal, the trials before Pilate and Herod, the baying crowd demanding crucifixion, the scourging and crucifixion. These are all events which depict the darkest aspects of human nature and which are appropriately expressed in sombre reflection and meditative music. Easter Sunday is a complete contrast centring on a garden tomb, a stone rolled away and the presence of angels impelling us to declare with organ and trumpets: 'Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son: endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.'

It would, however, be very far from the case to suppose that Easter Sunday



simply cancels out holy week and Good Friday. It is not as if God somehow switches on a light that turns night into day, so that fortunate Christians can now live in a peaceable world where love, life and grace simply dissolve all the disfigurements of human sin and evil. Instead, what we see in the pages of the New Testament, are the implications of Easter Sunday being progressively and challengingly worked out in the lives of individuals and communities. The church is born as people work out an answer to the question: 'What does it mean that the Jesus who was deserted and executed is alive with God and also present with us who follow him?'

The gospel writers show in different ways how the resurrection is good news for human beings - precisely including those who were complicit in Jesus's death. St. Luke especially links the resurrected Christ with the city of Jerusalem - the place where Herod, Pilate, Jews and Gentiles joined forces to kill the messiah (Acts 4:27). In Luke's gospel, the 'road to Emmaus' turns out to be a journey back to Jerusalem (Luke 24:33), Jesus appears to the 11 as they eat a meal together in the city, and the action finishes with the disciples worshipping together in the Jerusalem Temple. Extraordinarily, Peter's sermon in Solomon's Collonade suggests that the people of Jerusalem, including their leaders, had acted in ignorance (Acts 3:17) and extends an offer of salvation to any who will repent. Just where you might have expected a message that celebrated Jesus's victory 'over' the Jerusalem set, we see a remarkable attempt to 'win over' Jerusalem.

Peter himself, of course, had colluded in Jesus's death, three times denying his Lord. It is St. John who describes in painful detail Jesus's reinstatement of the 'rockman' – probing deeply into the extent of Peter's love for his master, before reissuing the summons 'follow me'. The other 'pillar' of the early church, Paul, had persecuted Christian believers, to the point of death, and he too must be challenged and 'turned around' in order to be saved (Acts 9:4). For Paul this involves an experience of physical blindness and a deeply humbling re-orientation of his core beliefs and practices.

It is with personal experience that the now 'Saint' Paul, tells us that 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.' This is seen nowhere more clearly than in a crucified Christ who reconciles precisely those who had hurt him. The perfect victim grants absolution to his persecutors. In the face of humanity's misguided attempt to annihilate the messiah, God overcomes the forces of evil and death in order to reconcile humanity to its creator. And God puts this resurrection power to work in the lives of individuals to bring them back to himself.

I have begun to think in recent years that the gospel does not just contain the message of reconciliation: the gospel is the message of reconciliation. That means the gospel of Easter Sunday is at work in the very earthly and all too human Monday to Friday realities of life persuading us, coaxing us and sometimes dragging us to face those things in our lives which separate us from God and from one another. And it means that all who are involved in the messy, costly and demanding work of reconciling people to each other and to God are doing God's own work.

We inhabit a world that is deeply marked at the moment by sharp and polarising divisions. The kind of passion, anger and even hatred that was manifest in Holy Week is sadly and increasingly evident in the social media, in newspaper columns and in certain kinds of political and even ecclesiastical discourse. The Bridge Builders conflict resolution consultants talk about 'level 5' or 'holy war' conflicts where

#### BISHOP'S EASTHER MESSAGE - CONTINUED

only the annihilation of the other will satisfy.

As we approach Easter, I am thankful that the love of God reaches down to the point of our deepest need. God in Christ takes upon himself the enmity, insults and blows of our sinful humanity and responds with the gracious offer to forgive and to reconcile. On Easter Sunday God demonstrates that he will not be defeated in his efforts to renew and redeem his creation. Each time we overcome the sin that separates people from their creator and from each other we prove the ongoing power of the resurrection.

'No more we doubt thee; glorious Prince of life.

Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife.

Make us more than conquerors through they deathless love.

Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.'

And finally, I give my thanks as ever to all our clergy and lay people who will be involved in the preparation and conduct of worship for Holy Week and Easter. May God powerfully bless the words spoken and sung in our churches.

I wish you a blessed and joyful Easter,

+ Robert Gibraltor in Europe

Robert Gibraltar in Europe



### CHARITABLE GIVING MAY

This month Charitable Giving will support the Stiltecentrum in Utrecht and Window of Hope in Malawi.

The ecumenical Meditation Centre in Hoog Catherijne, supported by Utrecht churches, is a place of silence, reflection, inspiration and encounter amid the hustle and bustle of modern society.

Window Of Hope Foundation is involved in various projects in the field of health, education, community empowerment, and development in Malawi. Projects include: a

book about Community Empowerment; supporting orphans to attain education; training economic empowerment of women; providing bikes to Safe Motherhood Field Assistants; initiating Hope Business Centre (offices, conference rooms, restaurant, lodging, internet café, social networking) that will use the profit to invest in social programs.

http://www.stiltecentrum.nl/

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Malawi-Window-Of-Hope/529367247132748



## "IK ZORG VOOR JOU"

The following article is written by a new arrival in the congregation of the Anglican Church in Zwolle. It describes her dream and how it led her to our church in Zwolle and to an experience of God's loving care. She has a blog and writes under the pseudonym Cirene Alive: https://quierodecirsite.wordpress.com

One Thursday, everything seems to be as usual except for the most strange dream I was about to have that night:

Pillars side by side, in grayish green, benches in polished wood, placed symmetrically, marked an aisle.

Looking at the altar, you could be touched by the flickering light of candles around, each pillar was clarified by the candle light, they seem to be unaware of their pure elegance.

Two lines as a pair of golden threads were perfectly forming a cross located in the background, so that it was facing whoever enters.

In a left hallway, hung on a wall, an oil painting with a beautiful image of HIM, his clothes in pale colour, a simple rope as a belt, and brown sandals, you could see his hands up as he was speaking to you, or perhaps, like he was blessing you.

An echo of footsteps, my mother carried in one of her hands the rosary bought in *El* 



santuario de nuestro señor de la piedra\* and thought: At least l'm wearing my warmest coat!

Before I continue with all this, it is better if you knew a little bit more about me. As a Roman Catholic recently moved to Netherlands, I went several times to "The Church of our Lady" (known as the Peppermill tower landmark of this city), however, I couldn't follow the services with my basic Dutch level.

I was born in Venezuela and lived there until I received my diploma as a lawyer, at the same time as the Hugo Chavez regime

\* "Esantuario de nuestro señor de la piedra" In a small town called Sopó of Colombia, December 3rd, 1753, a woman named Rosa Nieto discovered a stone while she was washing clothes in the water and who also was in charge of helping with some parochial work. The stone had an image of the Lord Jesus Christ on it. Nieto took it home, and that night she noticed that it still shinning like before in the water. The following day she took it to the parish priest who was blind and he could see again. In 1953, the current church was built, under the direction of an architect named Alfredo Rodriguez, to venerate our Lord, which is now set in a silver cross that sits on the main altar. In the years that followed, the sanctuary has become one of the most important pilgrimage sites in central Colombia, with hundreds of people showing up every Sunday from Bogota and nearby towns.

#### "IK ZORG VOOR JOU"- CONTINUED

just started. After a while, things got bad and then got worse, so my family and I fled to Colombia. Even so, not so long ago after we arrived there, my career was stuck and I finally got out of a toxic relationship. I felt devastated back then.

A teacher talked to me about continuing my studies, but this time abroad. That's how I decided to go to France to learn a new language and to do a Master degree in Human Rights. I did learn some French and besides this, love smiled at me again. As regards that Masters degree, it is still on my to-do list. About four months ago, I started a new life in the Netherlands with my fiancé.

Now, getting back to business:

My mom kept walking forward without any hurry to stop next to a bench. There, someone was lying, it was me sleeping in my dream. Suddenly, she noticed that something slowly illuminated the hallway. She turned to look and it was at that moment when she saw HIM.

-Do you see HIM?! She asked me, excited, but I still asleep.

She could see that his hands were changing, they were turning into some kind of real ones, they ceased being part of the painting to become as a human cartoon, so, little by little, his fingers started to move.

-Can you see HIM?! She insisted.

His long-sleeves, each pleat of his clothes was becoming alive. Then, she realized

that the same was happening with his torso. He took the first step outside of the painting.

She was still standing, totally delighted, she observed him without being able to contain her emotion, her heart was jumping with joy, there was so much of it that she felt like it overflowed from her chest, as water from a cup.

When I woke up from the bench, listening to her screams, I saw his hands moving. I felt an intense immediate happiness. His body was turning into life, but, as a cartoon! One made carefully. I saw his feet wearing sandals, walking out of the painting.

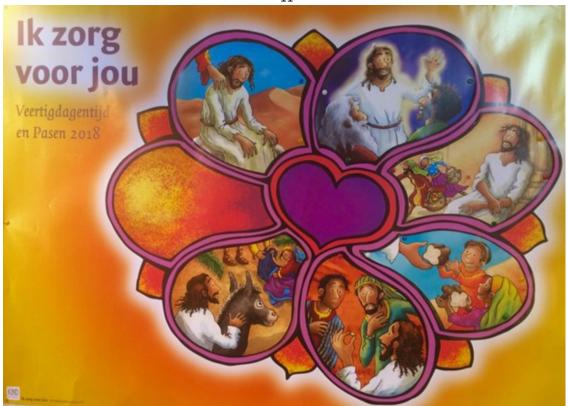
-JESUS IS COMING! She yelled at me.

He was approaching us! It was him! His hair affected by his moves while he walked and his clothes did too. Nevertheless, I was heavy-hearted because I saw all of him except for his face. All of a sudden, I was desolated because I was not allowed to see his eyes, therefore, my pleasant dream turned into a nightmare. All I could feel was anguish and sadness. I started to wonder why. It was hard to breath as I began to struggle to wake up.

Finally, there was so much pain in my chest that my eyes were opened when the clock marked 4:27 am.

That morning I devoted myself to searching for the meaning of my dream that ended up turning into an awful dream.

I continued feeling down because I thought



perhaps my soul was not good enough. I spent hours wondering thousands of questions. I opened many different websites, but, I couldn't find any answer.

I was desperate thus I prayed asking for help to understand all this, though, I still didn't get my answer until I found the particular website of the Anglican Church in Zwolle (anglicanchurchzwolle.nl). It announced its next service that weekend.

The service started, the Minister came down from the pulpit and that was when I discerned at her right side – there was hung a poster with an image of HIM. But, this was not one of those you normally find, such as He's on the cross or He shows a sacred heart; instead; this one was a cute cartoon, perfect in its style, his hands up as He was talking to you, his white clothes, brown rope as a simple belt. I will never forget that instant when time seemed to stop and I realized He was exactly like in my dream, and, as It happened in my dream I still couldn't see his face from there.

A choir was singing the most beautiful verses as parts of psalms and hymns, they did it so good that it gave me goose bumps.

I will not forget that moment, when I saw Him looking exactly the same as in my dream! At that very moment, I was so touched by all this, I felt something hard to describe, my heartbeat began to be faster and faster, my breathing accelerated, my hands were shaking, it was difficult to hold the six pages with the order of service.

When all was silent, I approached that poster, and I saw his sweet face! He was drawn in a cute cartoon style... and on the upper left corner a phrase in Dutch: "Ik zorg voor jou", which in English means: "I take care of you".

Tears in my eyes as I cannot contain my happiness...

Cirene Alive



# EXPLORING ANGLICAN CHURCH MUSIC EVENING.

On Wednesday 18th April, the Zwolle Anglican Church held the first of two evenings focused on understanding the riches and development of Anglican Church Music! It was a special, informative and participative evening. It was led by Christiaan Winter, who had served for over 20 years at the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam. He was assisted by Bob van der Linde (one of the organists who serves at services in Zwolle), and the Dutch Church Music Choir "Anthem", (who have sung Anglican Church Music since they were formed in 1979)..

Christiaan began his evening with an overview of how Anglican church music - both liturgical music, choral, and hymns - has become increasingly valued within Dutch church music and part of the Dutch Protestant hymnals. He shared about the growth of interest in Anglican music in the Netherlands over the past century.

He then proceeded to consider the English church musical traditions and styles before the English Reformation, and the moved on to the Book of



Common Prayer, renaissance and baroque composers, such as Tallis, Byrd, Blow, Purcell). We also discussed the development of the Anglican chant and the early hymn. There was a mixture of lecture, pieces by Anthem, organ pieces by Bob, and some joint singing by the audience.

It was a very interesting evening. The full lecture notes by Christiaan, later this month (in May), will be uploaded onto the congregation websites at Utrecht, Zwolle and Amersfoort, for those who would like to read more. It would be well worth your time.

The second evening will be held on Wednesday 16th May, from 8pm - 10pm. This will cover the developments of

Anglican Music from the last 17th to the modern day. Do come along if you can, it will be an informative and special evening. Our poster attached has more information.



**Revd Grant Crowe** 



**Venue:** Koestraat 2, 8011 NK Zwolle, in the Lutheran Church at that address. The Church is located beside the Museum de Fundatie.



#### **Exploring Anglican Church Music!**

The second of two special, informative and participative evenings focussing on Anglican Church Music, organised by Anglican Church Zwolle will take place on

Wednesday ,16th May 2018 , 8pm to 10pm



We will be considering Victorian and modern composers, such as Wesley, Wood, Parry, Stanford, Howells, and Rutter. Also, the further development of the hymn and the new musical ways (namely the influence of popular styles and world music and other musical forms).

Led by Christiaan Winter, who will be assisted by Bob van der Linde, the evening will be a mixture of listening, singing, and a lecture by Christiaan.

Refreshments will be served during the evening.





## WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE LORD



This contribution was written by Ruth Alkema

Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord. (Ps. 27:14)

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life. (Proverbs 13:12)

"Wait patiently for the Lord": It is a recurring theme in the psalms, as for example in psalm 27 quoted above. It reminds me of moral stories, that we tell children to teach them that honesty will eventually be rewarded, although that may take long. But how long? At what point will we conclude that perhaps God's plans are different, and opt for second-best? Will our hearts become sick by the deferred hope, as explained in Proverbs 13:12? How will we find the promised life?

In his magnificent book "An officer and a spy", Robert Harris tells the true story of the Dreyfus affair<sup>1</sup>. Dreyfus was accused of espionage. An officer finds evidence that he is innocent, but is ordered to keep silent. This officer disobeys, gets into loads of trouble by heroically trying to find out what really happened, and in the end the truth prevails and the real culprit is condemned.

All the while that I was reading this most moving book, I kept asking myself, why? What drives this officer so much that he keeps going against strict orders, gives up all his peace and comfort and friendships, and persistently pursues the dangerous search for the real truth. What makes him do that, for a man he dislikes, and without

(it seems) any higher religious motives? Isn't this a very striking challenge for us Christians: are we as dedicated to the truth as this man?

It occurred to me that quite a few Christians might have told the officer that he should not get so upset. After all, it is not uplifting, nor patient, and we shouldn't think we are all that important, plus stress is bad for your health and we should learn to 'let go and let God'. These goodsounding counsels bother me enormously, for they will lead us to condone bad situations.

Still, 'wait patiently for the Lord' strikes me as an important part of Scripture, and I would like to see how it can help us be courageous in times of great stress, like this officer fighting against the authorities to release the innocent victim and bring truth to light.

Is this story actually an example of "waiting patiently for the Lord"? Perhaps Dreyfus (a Jew) waited patiently until God saved him by means of this officer? Or, perhaps pursuing the truth is a kind of waiting for God. In that case the officer waited (frantically) for God, or truth, and therefore God helped him eventually. The story ends well. Evil has lost, we can see clearly



The letter by Emile Zola, that finally made things move and got Dreyfus eventually vindicated. Emile Zola fled to England after publishing this.

again. Oppressors may have power for a while, but there will always be heroes who will see to it that the lies are eventually exposed. And we, the normal people, can wait patiently for these events to take their turn, as they always eventually will.

But.. hey! What did I just say? We seem to have lost sight of the Lord! We are now patiently waiting for natural events. There will always be oppressors and heroes and victims. It is in the nature of things that secrets will eventually be exposed. What has God to do with this? These stories repeat themselves over and over again, and don't we see often that the truth

prevails only when the victim is already dead.

Is it then silly to think that faith in God will be rewarded with eventual success? I struggle with this, for it seems to me that anything else is like a second-best solution. It seems like fooling ourselves by being more vague about our expectations, so that we have more chance that they come true. That is not what I want. On the other hand, haven't Christians of all times taught that we live in a broken world, with a lot of suffering? Learning how to bear this, together with God, is not second-best, but a very important part of our following Jesus in this age. There is something very profound in the fact that Jesus came to be human and be with us in the very depths of suffering. Not just then, but also now, when we ask him.

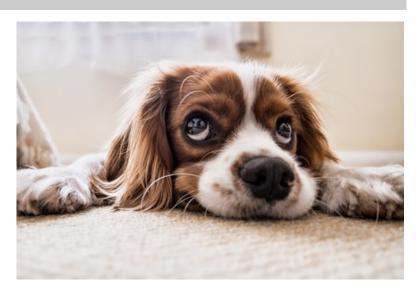
When we are victims, it is natural to put all our hope in some saviour to fix things. However, I do not think that God intends us to be so passive. No need to give up doing anything at all. We can and should be open for God being present in our current misery. It is my impression that *such* waiting is never long. God is always close and more than ready to help us bear the suffering if we ask him. This will also open our eyes to joys that we did not see before.

The hero is obviously not passive. Instead, he is at risk of a burnout. The advice to 'let go and let God' is a reaction to this very real danger. I would not advise to stop pursuing the good, but regularly *taking a pause to listen* is essential. This can be very hard and even feel like the wrong thing to do if we have

#### WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE LORD - CONTINUED

this sense of urgency driving us. But if we do stop to be still and acknowledge before God that we are but creatures — needing his presence and wider perspective — we will be refreshed and enabled to endure, and to continue the good work longer.

This is a totally different type of waiting than I first thought. Not waiting, hoping against hope, for events to change in some future. But, being patient in the current circumstances, we expect God to be with us, and are open to him. This way, he can help us bear the current circumstances, and make us ready for his future. On top of that I believe this could very well enable us to make a positive change in our present time. Not everything



can be fixed, but we do make a difference. No need to wait for God to do that. When God lives in us, we can finally stop repeating history, and live the life of his kingdom.

source: http://www.consideringlilies.nl/wait-patiently-for-the-lord





# POEM



This poem was written by Oeke Kruythof. English translation/transcreation by Jenny Narraway

#### Lenteweelde

In alle weelde heeft
de lente zich voltooid
het groendoorlichte blad
uitbundig meervoud van
miljarden
is tot de kleinste vezel toe
volmaakt gedacht

**Spring profusion** 

In all its glory spring has arrived with green translucent leaves exuberant multiplication of millions through to the smallest filamental detail of fibre

ik sta vandaag onder die ene boom
de lindeboom
en tracht die ene boom
tenminste
in een rond getal te vatten
maar ach
bij de eerste tak ben ik de tel
al kwijt
ik lever het bewijs:
de lente is nooit in de ratio te
vangen –

I stand today under that one tree
a lime tree
an attempt that this tree makes in one round number to understand
but at the first branch
I have lost count providing the proof that spring cannot be explained by an equation



# 'THY KINGDOM COME' (MAY 10TH - 20TH).

This article was written by the Rev Grant Crowe, Amersfoort chaplain



#### THY KINGDOM COME

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is inviting Christians around the world to pray as one for people to know Jesus Christ. These days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, have been given the name "Thy Kingdom Come." It has grown from the Church of England into a prayer movement across the globe, including not only other parts of the Anglican Communion, but also other denominations and traditions.

It invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the transformational love of Jesus Christ. The hope, is that, as they pray, people will be empowered by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Thy Kingdom Come offers something for everyone through a fantastic range of resources and ideas - for example, there are many resources now provided, free, online, for example, enabling people to pray individually or with others, during those days, or to to receive themed reflection during the 10 days. And there are more possibilities how to use these ten

days prayerfully! The website www.thykingdomcome.global hold these resources. Explore away and download what you need.

On Youtube, there have been a series of inspiring videos uploaded...

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCErsPSbZL4WUieHf8eQLIxw

To finish. The Methodist Church in the United Kingdom have suggested some prayers and topics we can pray or use in these days...

#### A Set of Prayers which can be prayed...

Liberating God,

we give thanks for that amazing assurance of your

love that comes to each one of us. May we always rejoice in your mercy and grace;

your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Redeeming God,

your mercy is immense and free. May we know

in our hearts the freedom from sin that comes to us in the saving work of Christ, who died for all; your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Gracious God, as you have redeemed us, so, by the power of your

19

Spirit at work in us, may we proclaim your glorious name in all places, that the world might both taste and see the riches of your grace;

your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Saving God, in your Son you call us into a new Covenant with you.
May we, by your divine grace, put ourselves aside and seek to glorify you in all we say and do; your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Incarnate God, in Jesus we see your Word made flesh. Stamp your image on our faces and hearts, that in all things we may show your love and that our actions may be proof that we belong to you; your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Calling God,
you raised up your people to proclaim
and witness to the gospel of faith in
Christ, Pour out the Spirit of your love

Christ. Pour out the Spirit of your love on your Church to revive us in our calling as your servants in this age;

your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Welcoming God,

you call all humankind to the feast of your gospel.

We pray for those who have not heard, who do not know, or who resist the power of your love; your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Almighty God, may your love fire the nations, that all

might catch the flame, that your kingdom may be known throughout the world; your kingdom come. Your will be done.

Loving God, in all things may we be attentive to your word, relying on your grace and the power of your Spirit at work in us; your kingdom come. Your will be done. Amen.

## Pointers for Prayer during these ten days.

- Pray for the Church throughout the Netherlands

   – that the Spirit will revive and refresh the Church in every part;
- Pray for the congregation which you attend, and for the others churches in your town / city that you and they may be waiting attentively for the ways God is speaking through the Spirit;
- Pray for those who come to your congregation, and for those on the fringes - that they may have an assurance of God's love and know that they are saved through Christ;
- Pray for those who are in leadership in the Church - that they may be strengthened and upheld in their ministries:
- Pray for those who you know who do not know of God's love
- for friends or family, for neighbours or colleagues, that God's

#### THY KINGDOM COME—CONTINUED

Spirit may fill their hearts;

- Pray for the Kingdom of God that it may break through in us and among us, that the earth may be filled with the glory of God;
- Pray for yourself that God's Spirit will speak in your heart, that you may be bold to proclaim the gospel in your words and actions.

And a final prayer we can use...

Loving Jesus,

let us step out with you in faith;

grant us understanding to know what we need to do,

grant us courage to go where we are needed.

grant us strength to face our difficulties, grant us determination to overcome our disappointments,

grant us wisdom to serve you well.

Lord Jesus, let us step out with you in

so that your light shines far beyond our way,

bringing your truth to many.
Amen.

**Revd Grant Crowe** 



## REQUEST FOR PRAYER

This was submitted by the editor, Judy Miller

Our Christian brothers and sisters who worship in the Arnhem and Nijmegen chaplaincy have asked for our prayers. Their church council are discussing the possibility of holding more services. At the moment they meet alternate Sundays but would like to hold services at both locations every Sunday. They are praying for God's guidance in this decision. Father Jos

Strengholt has been a great help with this decision and supports the council. Please pray for the council as they plan this wonderful decision.

The web-site for the Arnhem/Nijmegen church is, arnhemnijmegenchaplaincy.nl www.rvkarnhem.nl/content2/rvkarnhem.cgi? Anglican church



## REQUEST FROM MAYA

Please continue to bring your no longer needed clothes to church (Holy Trinity Utrecht) for Maya to take to her contact. Any second hand clothes, toys and shoes can be recycled and given to someone else.



## WORSHIP BAND HOLY TRINITY UTRECHT

This message was submitted by Brian Fink-Jensen, member of the HTC worship band.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Four years ago I received a Facebook message from Maria van Oordt. She felt a desire to start a worship group in Amersfoort, which I was happy to join. We started rehearsing a couple of times and some members were added to the band. Little did we know that a some months later, father David asked us to consider leading the music in the All Age Worship services. Ever since I have enjoyed playing music and singing in our services a lot. I feel so privileged! The band has consisted of various members. Maria is now leading the music in All Saints Amersfoort. Trevor, John, Heikki and Linda have been a part of the worship band in the past year. Tomàs and Mayra have at times also joined us.

The same things are important to us now that were important four years ago. Which is that we long to do more than just make music and have fun together. We make music for the Lord, to praise Him and honour His name. Together we grow closer to Him by opening up our hearts for His Spirit. Music helps us opening up and speaking out the desires of our hearts. We long to support the congregation in doing so through leading the music.

We are currently looking for new musicians to join us. John and I will go on taking the services, Linda and Heikki are saying goodbye to us. So if you play any instrument (but especially the piano, bass guitar or percussion), or you are a singer,



do get in touch with John [johnhoudijk@yahoo.com] or with me! [brianssen@hotmail.com] If you contact us we can rehearse a couple of times and see whether we make a good combination.

We lead two services each month (except during summer break). The first Sunday of the month is the All Age Worship service and the third Saturday of the month is the Prayer and Praise service. We rehearse once before each service (currently on Wednesday nights).

Kind regards, Brian





#### Introduction to the 2018 CrossFit series: Utrecht Chaplaincy's Men's Evening

In 2018 the 'Men's Evening' will be held five times at the home of Peter & Petra Gillies.

What is **CrossFit**? It is a play on the CrossFit fitness craze: a high-intensity fitness programme incorporating elements from several sports and types of exercise. We will not be doing anything but mental and spiritual exercises, although you are invited to come to the sessions on your bicycle!

The "red threads" of our particular brand of CrossFit will be three-fold:

- 1) To have fellowship between Christian men of all ages
- 2) To build our evenings around explore the subjects in the acronym: S.H.A.P.E.
- 3) To become "fit" for the world we live in and to fulfill the Lord's expectations

#### The five sessions will be as follows:

"S" Evening (Spiritual Gifts) – Which gifts of the Spirit do you have? How do we discern gifts? – 17 March 2018

- Where: Scheg 1, Nijkerk RSVP
- Time: 18:00 BBQ; ending around 22:30
- Subject: The awareness of Spiritual Gifts in your life.

"H" Evening (Heart) – What do I have a passion for and love to do? – June 23rd

- Where: Scheg 1, Nijkerk RSVP
- Time: 18:00 BBQ; ending around 22:30
- Subject: Exploring what gets you going, what drives you, what attracts you, & where your passion is.

"A" Evening (Abilities) – What natural talents and skills do I have? – August 25<sup>th</sup>

- Where: Scheg 1, Nijkerk RSVP
- Time: 18:00 BBQ; ending around 22:30
- Subject: Thinking more deeply about what your talents are and how you might use them to serve God.

"P" Evening (Personality) – Where does your personality best suit you to serve? – October 13th

- Where: Scheg 1, Nijkerk RSVP
- Time: 18:00 BBQ; ending around 22:30
- Subject: What is your personal "software" and how does that affect your behavior?

"E" Evening (Experiences) – What spiritual, educational, or other experiences have you had? – December 8<sup>th</sup>

- Where: Scheg 1, Nijkerk RSVP
- Time: 18:00 BBQ; ending around 22:30
- Subject: Thinking about how your experiences have affected your life and how to leverage that for the Lord.



#### EGYPT DESERT RETREAT 13-19 OCTOBER 2018

The Rev Dr Jos Strengholt currently serves in the Anglican Chaplaincy of Arnhem and Nijmegen. He has lived for 25 years in Egypt, first as a working missionary and then as an ordained Anglican priest. He knows Egypt and travelling in Egypt very well and is a great teacher. He is offering to lead a retreat into the Desert and this article is on his website: www.strengholt.info.

#### During the retreat we will

- Visit some of the oldest monasteries in the world, in Wadi Natrun.
- Learn from the ancient books of Egyptian Desert Fathers (a guided course, 2×45 minutes per day, based on the life and writings of Pachomius).
- Have time for personal meditation.
- Meet with the Coptic Orthodox Bishop Thomas (the visionary who founded and leads Anafora).



- Participate in the common evening prayers of Anafora.
- Enjoy the green desert of Anafora.

#### Cost of this retreat: 475 Euro. This includes:

- Six nights in Anafora, including three meals and drinks per day.
- The study/work books we use (Pachomian Koinonia, three volumes, supplied at the beginning of the retreat)
- Transport from and to Cairo (the airport, if you like, or any other place if you wish so) on 13 and 19 October.

#### Not included:

- Your ticket to and from Egypt
- If you arrive before 13 October or if you stay after 19 October, we can help you arrange bookings and sightseeing tours, at your expense.

Thus far we have four participants, beside me. If you want to more information or if you want to register, please contact me at: jos@strengholt.info

## BOOK REVIEW: Jesus Christ for Today's World

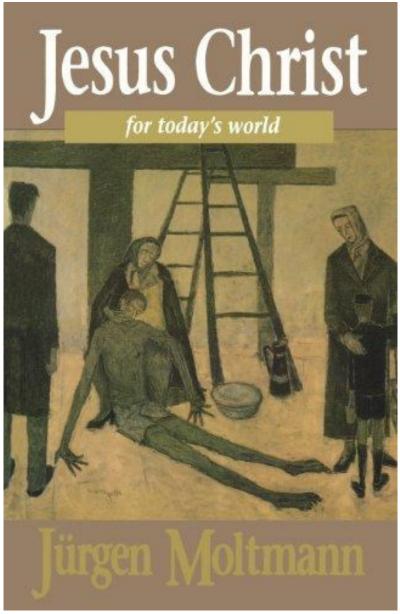
This review was written by Marc of the Utrecht congregation.

Jürgen Moltmann, Jesus Christ for Today's World, Fortress Press 1995, ISBN 9780800628178 (pbk).

It was Wolfhart Pannenberg's quest to reestablish and consolidate theology as a serious academic discipline in a secularising academy. In the interest of the future of Western civilisation and Christian confidence there is something to be said in favour of keeping theology at the centre of learning and debate, as well as in a continual exchange between the academy and the church. In the person of Jürgen Moltmann, both the academy and the church have found a theologian committed to Pannenberg's vision.

Known as the "theologian of hope", Professor Jürgen Moltmann, Emeritus Professor of Systematic Theology in the Protestant Theological Faculty of the University of Tübingen, is one of the world's most influential living Reformed theologians. This little book of 147 pages presents an opportunity for lay Christians to get acquainted with some of Moltmann's ideas on the kingdom of God, suffering, atonement and torture, anxiety, the resurrection, as well as the future of God's creation.

According to Moltmann, the kingdom of God is the "wide space" in which



Christians experience God's exhilaration in his joy over us, in which not merely salvation is being spread, but where "God drives out the germs of death and spreads the seeds of life". The Beatitudes are introduced as the "basic law" of the kingdom of God, meeting the poor not solely in the form of charity handouts, but through dignity having been made God's "first children": "Where the sick are healed and the lost are found, where people who are despised are accepted and the poor

discover their own dignity, where people who have become rigid and fossilized come alive again, and old, tired life becomes young and fruitful once more – there the kingdom of God begins".

Throughout the book, Moltmann weaves orthodox Protestant theology with the concerns of today's de-Christianising Western societies, which becomes clear in Moltmann's affirmation of his belief in the resurrection. Moltmann writes that "Christian faith in God is faith in the resurrection" and then goes on to link the resurrection with the "liberation" of human beings: "The proclamation of Christ's resurrection is a meaningful statement against the horizon of the history which it itself throws open: the history of the liberation of human beings and the whole sighing creation from the powers of annihilation and death". This reviewer, having read the chapters on Christ's passion and the suffering of God, was left deeply affected by Moltmann's crosscentred theology. Surprising to some maybe, in Moltmann's theology God – in contrast to Greek metaphysics – is capable of suffering (albeit not in the same way as transient beings) and joins us in our own suffering. The author continues this line of thought by relating it to the issue of torture. Victims of torture can take comfort from the fact that through his passion and death on the cross, Christ not only put himself on the side of the victims of torture and became their brother, but also became Judge of the torturers.

It is lyrical sentences such as these that make Moltmann's theology so gripping

and powerful: "[The movement of redemption] is a movement which runs from the future to the past, not from the past to the future. It is the divine tempest of the new creation, which sweeps out of God's future over history's fields of the dead, waking and gathering every last created being. The raising of the dead, the gathering in of the victims and the seeking of the lost bring a redemption of the world which no evolution can ever achieve".

The chapters on the kingdom of God and the resurrected Christ are excellent too and ideally suited for group study. It is unfortunate though that Moltmann did not provide group study questions. More seriously, the author appears at one point to enter into a flirtation with universalism. If sin and lack of faith in Christ remain by implication inconsequential, then why do we as sinners need Christ in the first place? If the tortured can gain comfort, as Moltmann says, from the fact that the torturers will be judged by a fellow victim of torture - Christ, the question does arise how much of a comfort this knowledge really is if even unregenerate torturers will ultimately be redeemed.

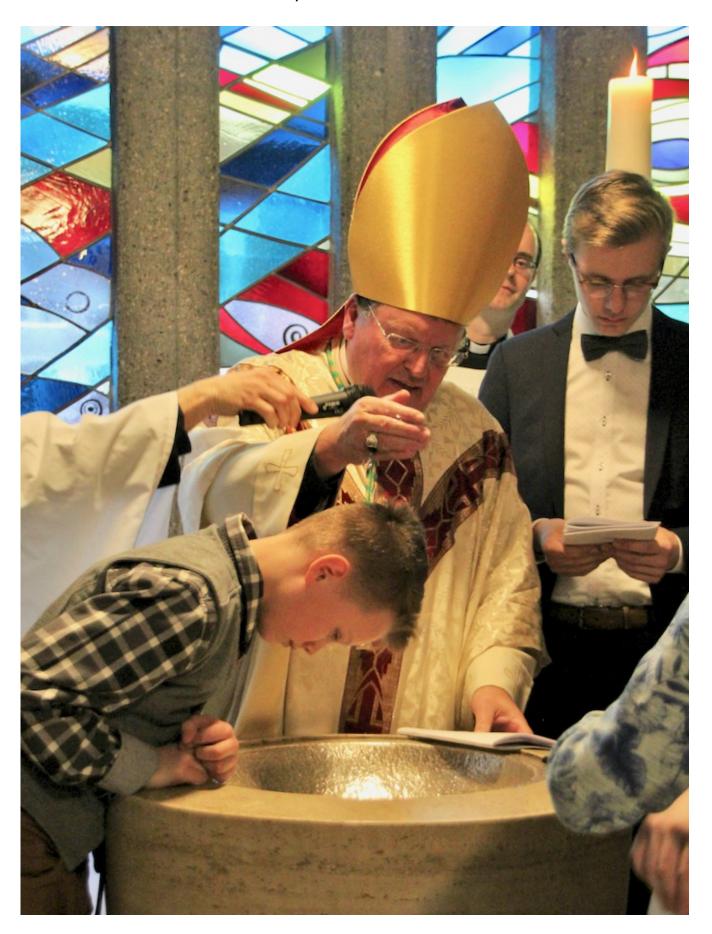
Books written by academic theologians probably do not get more accessible than this. Readers with some interest in theology should appreciate this little window into Moltmann's theology.

Marc



### **CONFIRMATION SERVICE PHOTOS**

On March 10th we had a wonderful baptism and confirmation service led by bishop Norman Banks. Here are some of the photos.





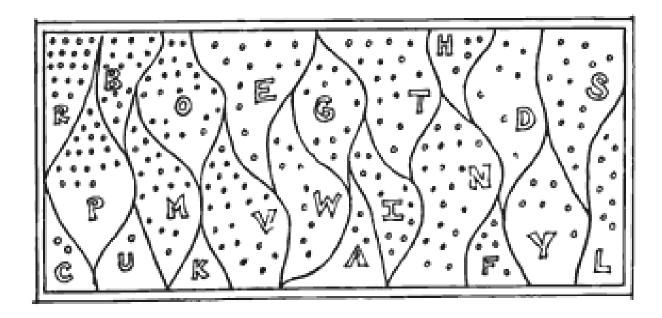


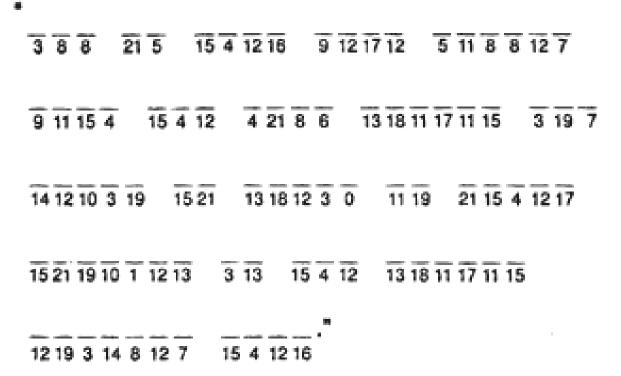


BibleWise

## What Happened at Pentecost?

Count the number of dots in each space. Then use the letters to decode the message below about what happened at Pentecost. Check your work with Acts 2:4.





Bible Activities For Everyone by Betty De Vries and Mary Currier. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books Publisher, 1999.



#### DRINKING FROM THE WELL OF LIFE

#### THESE READINGS ARE FROM THE REVISED TABLES OF LESSONS 1922

This pattern of readings is taken from the Book of Common Prayer (revised 1922). It leads us each year through most of the Old Testament once and the whole New Testament twice. The readings are longer than you might be used to, but just let them wash over you and shape your soul like a rock in a river that is gradually shaped by the current. If you miss a bit, just pick up on the present day's readings when you return. Or if it is too much, chose just the Old Testament or Gospel or Epistle readings. Grey highlighted boxes are special readings related to a day of Fasting or a Feast day, which we begin to celebrate the night before.

#### THE WEEK OF EASTER IV – APRIL 30 TO MAY 5

O ALMIGHTY God, who alone can order the unruly wills and affections of sinful humanity:
Grant to your people, that they may love the things which you command,
and desire that which you do promise; so that,
among the sundry and manifold changes of the world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Joshua 1	Acts 21:1-16	Proverbs 4.10 - 18	John 1.43 - end
St. Philip St. James	Job 23.1 - 12	John 6.1 - 14	Isaiah 30.15 - 21	John 17.1 - 8
Wednesday	Joshua 5:136:20	Acts 23:12-end	Joshua 7	Acts 24:1-23
Thursday	Joshua 9:3-end	Acts 24:2425:12	Joshua 10:1-15	Acts 25:13-end
Friday	Joshua 21:4322:8	Acts 26	Joshua 22:9-end	Acts 27
Saturday	Joshua 23	Acts 28:1-15	Josua 24:1-28	Acts 28:16-end

#### THE WEEK OF EASTER V – MAY 7 TO 12

O LORD, from whom all good things do come: Grant to us your humble servants, that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by your merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	Judges 6:25-end	Heb. 5:11-6 end	Judges 7	Hebrews 7
Tuesday	Judges 8:32-9.24	Hebrews 8	Judges 10:17-11:28	Hebrews 9:1-14
Wednesday	Judg. 11:2912:7	Heb. 9:15-end	Judges 13	Hebrews 10:1-18
Thursday	Judges 14	Hebrews 10:19-end	Judges 16:4-end	Hebrews 11
Friday	Ruth 1	Hebrews 12:1-13	Ruth 2	Hebr 12:14-end
Saturday	Ruth 4:1-17	Hebrews 13	Deuteronomy16:9-12	Luke 11:1-13

#### THE WEEK OF PENTECOST (WHITSUNDAY) – MAY 21 TO 26

GOD, who as at this time did teach the hearts of your faithful people, by the sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Pentecost Mon	Ezekiel 11:14-20	Acts 2:12-36	Wisdom 1:1-7	Acts 2:37-end
Pentecost Tues	Ezekiel 37:1-14	1 Cor. 12:1-13	Wisdom 7:158:1	1 Cor. 12:2713 end
Wed Ember	1 Kings 19:1-18	1 Corinthians 2	Wisdom 9	1 Corinthians 3
Thursday	2 Sam. 23:1-5	Ephesians 6:10-20	Exodus 35:3036:1	Acts 18:24-19:7
Fri Ember	Num. 11:16-29	2 Cor. 5:14-6:10	Jeremiah 31:31-34	2 Corinthians 3
Sat Ember	Num. 27:15-end	Matt 9:35-10:20	Isaiah 61	Acts 20:17-35

#### THE WEEK OF TRINITY SUNDAY – MAY 28 TO JUNE 2

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity:

We beseech you, that this holy faith may evermore be our defence against all adversities; who is alive and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.

	Morning Prayer		Evening Prayer	
Monday	1 Samuel 1	James 1	1 Samuel 2:1-21	Luke 1:1-23
Tuesday	1 Samuel 2:22-end	James 2:1-13	1 Samuel 3	Luke 1:24-56
Wednesday	1 Samuel 4	James 2:14-end	1 Samuel 7	Luke 1:57-end
Thursday	1 Samuel 8	James 3	1 Samuel 9:1-25	Matthew 1:18-end
Friday	1 Samuel 9:26-10:16	James 4	1 Sam 10:17-end	Luke 2:1-39
Saturday	1 Samuel 11	James 5	1 Samuel 12	Matthew 2



## WORSHIP IN MAY

#### ALL SAINTS' AMERSFOORT

Every Sunday: 9:30am Sung Holy Communion
Nieuwe Erven, Heiligenbergerweg 144, 3816 AN Amersfoort
(for midweek services and activities see: www.allsaintsamersfoort.nl)

#### ANGLICAN CHURCH ZWOLLE

4pm First Sunday (Holy Communion) and 4pm Third Sunday (Evensong)

#### GRACE CHURCH GRONINGEN

10:30am 2nd Sunday (Service of the Word) and 4th Sunday (Holy Communion) every Month

#### HOLY TRINITY UTRECHT

services are in English unless otherwise specified

Tuesday 1st May Feast of St Philip and St James

20:00 Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 6th May Fifth Sunday after Easter

10:30 All Age Worship Sung Communion (with Gospel band)

Thursday 10th May ASCENSION DAY

10:30 Choral Communion

Sunday 13th May Sunday after Ascension

9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch liturgy/English sermon)

10:30 Choral Communion 14:30 Choral Evensong

Saturday 19th May Evening Prayer and Praise – "They shall see God"

19:30 Service of the Word with Gospel Band

Sunday 20th May PENTECOST

10:30 Choral Communion with Holy Baptism

Pentecost Monday 21 May 10:00 Sung Communion (Dutch liturgy/English sermon)

Pentecost Tuesday 22 May 10:00 Holy Communion

Sunday 27th May TRINITY SUNDAY (our Patronal Festival!)

9:00 Sung Communion (Dutch liturgy/English sermon)

10:30 Choral Communion

In addition to the above services, we have these regular midweek services at Holy Trinity Utrecht:

Daily: Morning Prayer (Tues to Fri 8.00; Sat 9.00) and

Evening Prayer (Tues to Fri 17.30; Sat 17:00)

Weekly: Holy Communion (said) (Wednesday at 19.00)