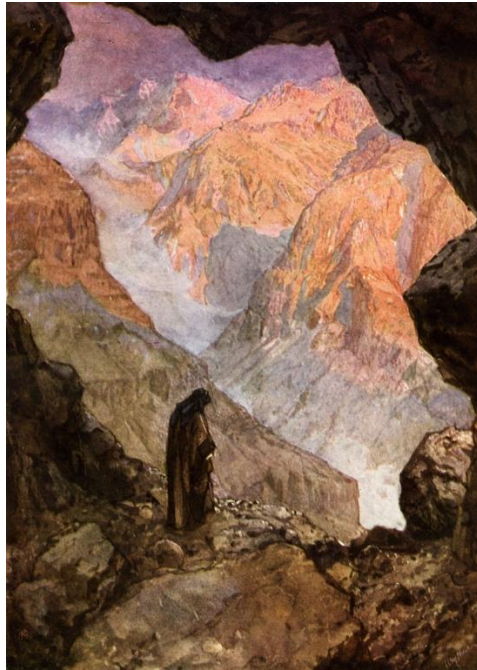


**INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**  
**MARTINI CHURCH, GRONINGEN**

**1 December 2024, 5.00 PM**



**Shining Examples of Faith**  
**Elijah: Hearing God in the Whisper**

Music: Johan Smit (organ), Geraldina Gaastra (oboe)  
Preacher: The Ven. Sam Van Leer  
Worship Leader: Rev. Alexandra Matz

Painting: *Elijah In The Desert Of Horeb* by William Brassey Hole

## **Welcome!**

Welcome to our international worship service. This service is a joint initiative of the Martini Church (Protestant), Grace Church (Anglican) and the Korean Church (Presbyterian) in Groningen. Every first Sunday of the month, we welcome international guests and visitors to an English language service at 5 PM. Together we want to celebrate the love of God and the Good News for the world that we have encountered in Jesus Christ. Only together with all the children of God we can know the many dimensions of His love.

You may be an occasional visitor or not see yourself as a Christian. If so, you are equally welcome. Please, feel comfortable, even if you do not yet know how the service will unfold. Just look how things are happening and it will be easy to join in – or just listen and observe.

## **Welkom!**

Van harte welkom in deze internationale kerkdienst: een initiatief van de Protestantse wijkgemeente Martinikerk, van Grace Church, de Anglicaanse kerk in Groningen én de Koreaanse kerk in Stad.

Elke eerste zondag van de maand om 5 uur 's middags willen we samen met christenen van uiteenlopende culturele achtergronden de liefde van God vieren. Alleen samen met andere gelovigen leren we de vele dimensies van de liefde van God kennen.

De dienst zal grotendeels in het Engels worden gehouden. Via koptelefoons wordt vertaling in het Nederlands geboden. Bij de ingang kunt u een koptelefoon ontvangen.

## Music

### Welcome

*-Please rise in body or spirit-*

### **Hymn: God Is Calling through the Whisper**

Words: Mary Louise Bringle, Tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY



God is calling through the whisper  
of the Spirit's deepest sighs,  
through the thrill of sudden beauties  
that can catch us by surprise.  
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;  
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:  
God is calling – can you hear?  
God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the voices  
of our neighbors' urgent prayers,  
through their longing for redemption  
and for rescue from despair.  
Place of hurt or face of needing;  
strident cry or silent pleading:  
God is calling – can you hear?  
God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the music

of sublime and human arts,  
through the hymns of earth and angels,  
and the carols of our hearts.  
Lift of joy and gift of singing;  
days and nights our praises bringing:  
God is calling – and we hear!  
God is calling – and we hear!

### **Votum**

Worship Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

All: **Amen.**

### **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

*-You may be seated-*

**Saying Sorry to God**      *The Minister introduces a time of confession.*

### **HYMN      Dear Lord and Father of Mankind**

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier, Tune: REST by Frederick Charles Maker



Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;

Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper rev'rence, praise.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small Voice of calm.

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
Beside the Syrian sea  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.

## **Words of Assurance**

## **LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture Reading**

### **1 Kings 19: 1- 16 (NIV)**

19 Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

<sup>3</sup> Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

<sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>10</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

<sup>11</sup> The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>14</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

<sup>15</sup> The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

The Ven. Sam van Leer

**HYMN He comes to us as one unknown**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, Tune: *REPTON*, by C. Hubert H. Parry



He comes to us as one unknown,  
a breath unseen, unheard;  
as though within a heart of stone,  
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
a pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie  
and thoughts of day depart;  
half-seen upon the inward eye,

a falling star across the sky  
of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas,  
the ocean's fume and foam;  
yet small and still upon the breeze,  
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
a voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came  
by flesh and blood and birth;  
to bear within our mortal frame  
a life, a death, a saving name,  
for every child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown;  
believed, obeyed, adored;  
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,  
as yet unseen, but not unknown,  
our Savior and our Lord.

*-Please rise in body or spirit-*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Ik geloof in God de Vader, de  
Almachtige, Schepper van de  
hemel en de aarde.

En in Jezus Christus, zijn  
eniggeboren Zoon, onze Here;  
die ontvangen is van de Heilige  
Geest,  
geboren uit de maagd Maria;  
die geleden heeft, onder Pontius  
Pilatus, is gekruisigd,  
gestorven en begraven,  
neergedaald in de hel; op de derde  
dag opgestaan uit de doden;

## The Apostles' Creed

*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;*



opgevaren naar de hemel, en zit  
aan de rechterhand van God, de  
almachtige Vader;  
vandaar zal Hij komen om te  
oordelen de levenden en de doden.

*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.*

Ik geloof in de Heilige Geest.  
Ik geloof een heilige, algemene,  
christelijke kerk, de gemeenschap  
der heiligen; vergeving van de  
zonden; opstanding van het  
lichaam; en een eeuwig leven.  
Amen.

*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.*

*-You may be seated -*

## **Intercessions**

*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.**

## **Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent**

As we make plans for the coming Christmas season, we  
would also prepare our hearts for the returning of Christ.  
You came once for your people, O Lord, and you will come  
for us again. Though there was no room at the inn to  
receive you upon your first arrival,

**We would prepare you room in our hearts and in our  
home, Lord Christ.**

Our colored lights and Christmas trees,  
our festive carols, our parties with friends,  
these have never been ends in themselves.

We are making ready to receive the one  
Who has already, with open arms, received us!

**We would prepare you room in our hearts and in our home, Lord Christ.**

We celebrate your first coming, Immanuel,  
Even as we long for your return.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 forever. Amen.**

### **NOTICES**

*-Please rise in body or spirit-*

### **HYMN O come Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
and turn our darkness into light. Refrain

O come, O King of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain

## **SHARING OF THE GRACE AND DISMISSAL**

Worship Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with  
you all.

All: **Amen!**

Worship Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen!**

## **Music**

Contributions welcome: We kindly invite you to help support  
provision of these international worship services by making a donation in  
the collection plate or by transferring via Tikkie:



Tikkie collectie  
Internationale dienst  
kerk050.nl/mki

**SCAN ME**

**Are you an international in Groningen looking for a Christian community, or a place to explore Christian faith in more depth or simply to socialize with both internationals and locals?**

**We invite you to check out:**

- **Grace Church** (<http://gracechurchgroningen.com>)
- **HOST** (Hospitality for Overseas Students), a platform for international students and young professionals in Groningen (<https://ifes-ism.nl/local-activities/north-east-netherlands/host-groningen>)

### **Upcoming services**

- Second and Fourth Sunday of the month 10.30. a.m.: **Grace Church**, Witte de Withstraat 2, 9726 EC Groningen (in English).
- First Sunday of the month (September to June): 5.00 p.m.: **Martinikerk**, Joint International Service (in English). Follow us on Instagram >>>[@internationalservice\\_groningen](https://www.instagram.com/internationalservice_groningen)
- Third Sunday of the month 5.00 p.m. Choral Evensong in **Nieuwe Kerk**, Nieuwe Kerkhof 1 (in English).
- Every Sunday 9.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. (second Sunday) and 7.00 p.m. (third and fourth Sunday) Dutch services in **Martinikerk** (English translation upon request).