

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE
MARTINI CHURCH GRONINGEN
FEBRUARY 2, 2025
5:00 PM**



**ORGAN: JOHAN SMIT
LITURGY: THE REV. PIETER VERSLOOT
REFLECTIONS: THE REV. PAT JACKSON**

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 go and it will be easy to join in – or just listen and observe.

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

WORD OF WELCOME

Hymn: Come, thou Fount of every blessing (Robert Robinson & Nettleton)

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

2. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

OPENING PRAYER

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

All: Amen.

Salutation

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sharing the peace of Christ

Hymn: Praise my Soul the King of heaven

1. Praise my soul the King of heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like you his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia!
praise the everlasting King.

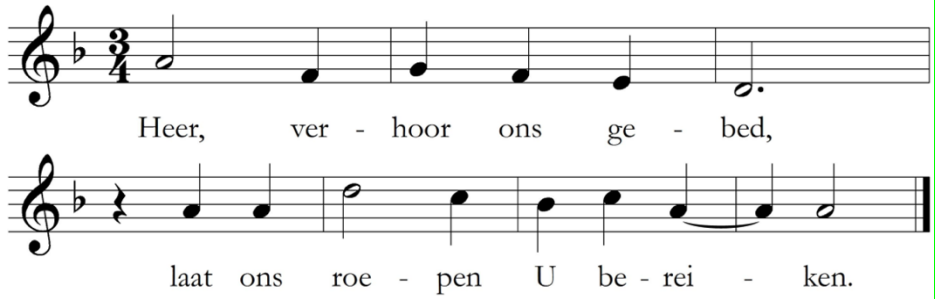
2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to blame and swift to bless;
Alleluia, alleluia!
glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Father-like, he tends and spares us,
All our hopes and fears he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia!
widely as his mercy flows.

Time of confession

Words of repentance (3 x)

Kyrie prayer (3 x)



Heer, ver - hoor ons ge - bed,
laat ons roe - pen U be - rei - ken.

Words of forgiveness and assurance

Hymn: Psalm 139 (W. van der Kamp, 1972)

1. O LORD my God, Thou searchest me;
My heart and mind are known to Thee!
No things are hidden from Thine eyes
When I sit down and when I rise,
And from afar Thou art discerning
My thoughts and hopes, my secret yearning.

2. Thou knowest all and Thou dost trace
My journey and my resting-place.
The ways I go are clear to Thee,
And all my doings Thou dost see.
My tongue, though silent, is revealing
The inmost thoughts I am concealing.

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Gospel of Luke 2: 22-40

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”^[b]

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many

hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^[d] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Song: As the deer pants for the water (Robert Newey)

1. As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

Chorus

You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my hearts desire
And I long to worship You.

2. I want You more than gold and silver
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver
And on You I can rely

Chorus

3. You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are the King
I love You more than any other
So much more than any thing

Chorus

Reflections

Hymn: It is well with my soul (Philip Paul Bliss, lyrics by Horatio G. Spafford).

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll;
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,
 3. My sin - oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous tho'!—My sin, not in part but the whole,
 4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live: If Jor - dan a - bove me shall roll,
 5. But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy com - ing we wait, The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
 6. And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;

What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 That Christ hath re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life Thou wilt whis - per Thy peace to my soul.
 Oh, trump of the an - gel! Oh, voice of the Lord! Bless - ed hope, bless - ed rest of my soul!
 The trump shall re - sound, and the Lord shall de - scend, E - ven so, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well _____ with my soul, _____ It is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well _____ with my soul, _____

WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873. MUSIC: "Ville Du Havre"; Philip P. Bliss, 1876. Public Domain.

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness (Chisholm & Runyan)

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changes not, Thy compassion's, they fail
not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Chorus

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endure
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Chorus

Time of Prayer

Prayer of the day

Intercessions

Moment of silence

The Lord's Prayer

All:

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.

Blessing

MINISTER: RECEIVE GOD'S PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE
LORD

ALL: IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

MINISTER: 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

FEEL FREE TO JOIN US IN HAVING A LIGHT MEAL IN THE CHAPEL

Are you an international in Groningen and looking for a Christian community or a place to explore the 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).
- 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).