

**Central Reformed Church  
Easter Sunday  
April 4, 2021**

## REFLECTION

Next comes the resurrection from the dead. Without this what we have said so far would be incomplete. For since only weakness appears in the cross, death, and burial of Christ, faith must leap over all these things to attain its full strength. We have in his death the complete fulfillment of salvation, for through it we are reconciled to God, his righteous judgment is satisfied, the curse is removed, and the penalty paid in full. Nevertheless, we are said to ‘have been born anew to a living hope’ not through his death but ‘through his resurrection’ [I Peter 1:3 p.]. For as he in rising again, came forth victor over death, so the victory of our faith over death lies in his resurrection alone. Paul better expresses its nature: ‘He was put to death for our sins, and raised for our justification’ [Rom. 4:25]. This is as if he had said: ‘Sin was taken away by his death; righteousness was revived and restored by his resurrection.’

For how could he by dying have freed us from death if he had himself succumbed to death? How could he have acquired victory for us if he had failed in the struggle? Therefore, we divide the substance of our salvation between Christ’s death and resurrection as follows: through his death, sin was wiped out and death extinguished; through his resurrection, righteousness was restored and life raised up, so that—thanks to his resurrection—his death manifested its power and efficacy in us.

—John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, II.xvi.13

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
EASTER SUNDAY  
APRIL 4, 2021  
9:30 am**

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**GATHERING IN LOVE**

*Welcome to Central Reformed Church on this holiest of days.  
May your life be touched by the power of God's love for us in Jesus Christ,  
and may the Easter joy that fills this day be yours in abundance.  
Worshippers in the sanctuary are invited to sing softly with their masks on during all hymns in the service.*

**Prelude**                      “Two Settings on ‘Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing’” (Paul Manz, Healy Willan)  
                                      “Partita on ‘Jesus Christ Is Risen Today’” (William H. Bates)  
                                      *Prelude*  
                                      *Fughetta*  
                                      *Trio*  
                                      *Finale*

**The Chimes**

**Introit**                      “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” (Tanzanian traditional)

*Christ has arisen, alleluia!  
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia!  
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,  
even from death, dispelling its gloom.*

*Refrain:  
Let us sing praise to him with endless joy;  
death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!*

*Christ has arisen to set us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be!  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
He reigns triumphant, heavenly king.*

**Welcome**

**Votum, Call to Worship**

Leader:                      Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
**People:**                      **Amen.**  
Leader:                      This is the good news: the grave is empty; Christ is risen!  
**People:**                      **Alleluia!**  
Leader:                      This is the good news: the light shines in the darkness,  
                                      and the darkness can never put it out.  
**People:**                      **Alleluia!**  
Leader:                      This is the good news: once we were not a people; now we are God's people!  
**People:**                      **Alleluia!**

**\*Salutation**

Leader:                      Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from  
                                      the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness,  
                                      the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.  
**People:**                      **Amen.**

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**\*Processional Hymn**

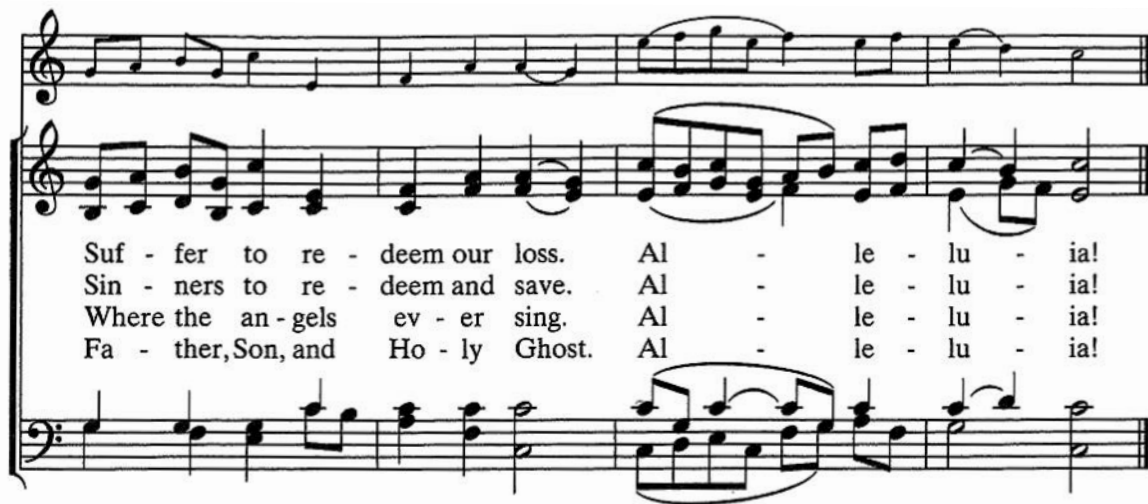
**"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"**

*Descant*

1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise e - ter - nal as God's love; Al - le - lu - ia!

Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



**\*Easter Reading** Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn** "Good Christians All Rejoice and Sing" (see end of order of worship for music)

**\*Invitation to Confession** (Psalm 118:19)

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them.  
 Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Good Shepherd God,  
 we confess that we are in danger of becoming a tearless people.  
 We confess to sometimes imitating a smiling society,  
 glossing over the hurt, the oppression, and the chaos of this earth.  
 At other times, we confess we become caustic, cynical, or despairing.  
 We are in danger of becoming a blind-hearted people,  
 buying into the system and growing satisfied with the way things are.**

**Have we not seen? Have we not heard?  
 And yet you, O God, have created us for covenant keeping.  
 You have created us for resurrection spotting.  
 You have created us to live your Easter good news with everything we've got.**

*(moment of silence)*



**So help us, we pray. By your Easter Spirit,  
empower us to live as a people shaped by your voice, your hope, and your reign.  
We pray in the name of the One who conquered the grave,  
Jesus, who is called the Christ. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Listen, church: God, who raised Jesus from the dead, has not given us over to death.  
People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*Acclamation and Peace**

Leader: The Lord is risen!  
People: **He is risen indeed!**

Leader: The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

**Anthem** "The Call" (Ralph Vaughan Williams)

1. *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way, as gives us breath:  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:  
Such a Life, as killeth death.*

3. *Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

2. *Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light, as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast, as mends in length:  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

**LISTENING IN EXPECTATION**

**Children's Moment** "Surprise!" from *The Beginner's Bible*

**\*Hymn** "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks!" (see end of order of worship for music)

**Second Lesson** John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her,

"Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Good News from the Graveyard"  
Rev. Steven D. Pierce

### **Prayer for a Blessing on the Word**

**Anthem** "Now Life Rises in the Morning" (Mark Shepperd)

1. *Now life rises in the morning,  
Painting hope across the sky,  
Sin and death in wonder scorning;  
World, behold the Crucified.  
Gone the devil's curse and power,  
Here Messiah's finest hour.  
His the resurrection;  
Alleluia, his the glory!*

2. *Now we have a risen Savior,  
Living, by the Spirit's breath.  
Finished is salvation's labor;  
Won, the victory over death.  
Where the darkness yields to dawn,  
Where the saints in light have gone,  
There we'll live and sing together  
Alleluias now and ever.*

3. *Now the church by Christ commissioned  
Goes the way of faith, not sight,  
Led by resurrection vision,  
Witness to one great Light!  
Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!  
This our message, this our Creed,  
Marking time and generations,  
Alleluias cross the nations.*

*Alleluia!*

### **RESPONDING IN FAITH**

**\*Apostles Creed** (unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

**\*Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **\*Offertory Prayer**

### **Prayers of the People**

*During the prayers each week, we remember our neighboring faith communities and their leaders. Today we are praying for the staff of The Other Way Ministries.*

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

*During the prayer:*

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,  
People: **Hear our prayer.**

### **The Lord's Prayer** (unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **DEPARTING IN JOY**

**\*Hymn** "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" (see next page)

### **\*Benediction and Blessing**

Leader: Whoever you are, wherever you go in God's wide world,  
Whatever happens to you of good or ill, always remember that . . .  
People: **Jesus is Lord!**

Leader: And always remember that the tomb is empty; Christ has risen.  
As you journey in faith, may your life be full, your love be abundant, and your hope be eternal. Live this day and always for Christ Jesus because the Risen Christ lives in you.  
People: **Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

**Postlude** "Toccata from Symphony No. 5" (Charles Marie Widor)

*For those worshipping in the sanctuary, please remain seated until the postlude concludes.  
The ushers will dismiss each household by row, starting from the rear of the sanctuary.*

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## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Preacher: Rev. Steven D. Pierce  
Liturgist: Rev. Larry Schuyler  
Director of Music Ministries: Taemin Han  
Principal Organist: Norma de Waal Malefyt  
Offertory Prayer: Ron Hager  
First Lesson Reader: Cindy DeVrou

Processional: Sharon West, Tory West,  
Davion West  
Vocalists: Carmen Kruyf, Jodi MacLean,  
Carlos Lemagne, Karel de Waal Malefyt  
Video Tech: Nick Loubert  
Sound Tech: Tom Smith



"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

G D7 G D

1 Christ is ris - en! Shout ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of des - pair.  
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

G C Am G D7 G

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der; all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

D G D7 G D7 B Em A7 D

In the de - sert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
 Tell its grim de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

G C Am G D7 G

Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing ho - san - na, ev - ery - one!

“Good Christians All Rejoice and Sing” (verses 1, 2, and 5)

Chord symbols: C, Em, F, G, C

1 Good Chris-tians all, re-joyce and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
 2 The Lord of life is risen to - day. Sing songs of praise a -  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which

Chord symbols: G, D, G, C, Em, Dm, C

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 long his way. Let all the world re - joyce and say:  
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:

Refrain Chord symbols: Am, G, D, G, Am, G, C

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
 and sing today with one accord  
 the life laid down, the life restored:  
*Refrain*

5 To God the Father, God the Son,  
 to God the Spirit, three-in-one,  
 we sing for life in us begun:  
*Refrain*

*Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.*

Words: Cyril A. Alington, 1925, alt. © 1958 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company  
 Music (GELOBT SEI GOTT 8.8.8 with alleluias 4.4.4): Melchoir Vulpius, 1609, P.D.

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks!” (verses 1, 2, and 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

ris-en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his

name. name. 1. Je - sus is Lord of all the  
 2. Spread the good news o'er all the  
 3. We have been cru - ci - fied with  
 4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing

earth. He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
 earth: Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le-  
 Christ. Now we shall live for - ev - er.  
 God, joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

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## WORSHIP NOTES

**New to Central?** Thank you for joining us today. Our mission is to connect all people to God and to one another through scripture, sacrament, song, and service. We have been in ministry for over 180 years and are a part of the Reformed Church in America, a Christian denomination that began in New Amsterdam (now New York City) in 1628. To learn more about our church and ways you can grow, please visit our website—[www.centralreformedchurch.org](http://www.centralreformedchurch.org).

**Indoor Worship Safety Protocols:** If you are worshipping in the sanctuary today, please remember the following protocols, intended to keep our brothers and sisters in Christ safe: maintaining appropriate physical distance, wearing a face covering in the building at all times, singing softly with masks on, seating and dismissing pew by pew, and accessing the order of worship on a phone or tablet if possible. Thank you for your gracious cooperation.

**For Visitors:** A warm welcome to those visiting with us in the sanctuary today. To help us follow public health guidelines, we kindly ask you to provide us with your name and e-mail address or phone number. This can be done by sending an e-mail to the church office ([office@centralreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@centralreformedchurch.org)) or by completing a visitor form, located in each pew, and leaving it in the offering plate as you exit.



**Central Reformed Church**  
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**Connecting all people to God and to one another through scripture, sacrament, song, and service.**