



CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH
EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 17, 2022

REFLECTION

Depth of mercy, can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God his wrath forbear?
Me, the chief of sinners, spare?

There for me the Savior stands,
Shows his wounds and spreads his hands;
God is love: I know, I feel;
Jesus lives, and loves me still.

-Charles Wesley in "Depth of mercy! can there be"
as quoted by David James Burrell in his sermon,
"Jonah at Nineveh," in *The Religion of the Future*,
American Tract Society, New York, New York, 1894.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 17, 2022
10:00 A.M.

*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.*

GATHERING IN LOVE

Prelude

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" | Michael Burkhardt
"Three Settings on 'The Strife is O'er'" | Lisa Shoemaker-Lohmeyer
"Fanfare" | Jacques Lemmens
"VICTORY" | Michael Helman

Introit

"Christ Is Risen, Alleluia!" | Taemin Han

Christ is risen, alleluia!
Alleluia, amen.

Welcome

Votum, Call to Worship

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

*The Salutation

One: 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.
Many: Amen.

*Processional Hymn

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" | 123, all verses

*Easter Proclamation

Acts 10:34-43 (page 895)
One: The Word of the Lord.
Many: Thanks be to God.

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

***Hymn** "Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show" | 481, all verses

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

One: 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**

Many: **Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. Forgive our dread of dying, our hopelessness, and set us free for the victory of Jesus Christ, who was dead but lives among us. Help us trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: God, who raised Jesus from the dead, has not given us over to death.

Many: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***Acclamation** *(spoken three times)*

One: The Lord is risen!

Many: **He is risen indeed!**

Welcoming New Members

Michael Beachy—by reaffirmation of faith

Elizabeth Klynstra—by transfer from Madison Square Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Caroline Loubert—by reaffirmation of faith

Nick Loubert—by reaffirmation of faith

David Laughter—by reaffirmation of faith

Sarah Van't Hof—by reaffirmation of faith

Hudson Rowland—by reaffirmation of faith

Natalie Rowland—by reaffirmation of faith

Burt VanderLaan—by transfer from Brookside Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI

Kathy VanderLaan—by transfer from Brookside Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI

***Peace**

One: The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Children's Moment

One: Congregation, what is your prayer for these children?

Many: **Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord.**

Hymn "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" | 106, v. 1, 2, and 4

LISTENING IN EXPECTATION

Gospel Lesson John 20:1-18 (page 882)
One: The Word of the Lord
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Surprise!"

Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

***Hymn** "Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" | 115, all verses

RESPONDING IN FAITH

***Apostles Creed**

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

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

In a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving, let us worship God through the giving of our tithes and offerings.

Offertory "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" | Mark Shepperd

Refrain:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Risen our victorious head!

Sing his praises! Alleluia!

Christ is risen from the dead! (Alleluia!)

Gratefully our hearts adore him,

As his light once more appears;

Bowing down in joy before him,

Rising up from griefs and tears.

Death and hell before him bending,

See him rise, the victor now,

Angels on his steps attending,

Glory round his wounded brow.

***Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" | 592

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 and congregation of Calvary Church.*

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

During the prayer:

One: Lord, in your mercy.

Many: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

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!" | 104, all verses

(During the singing of the hymn, the congregation is invited up to the chancel to join the choir in singing the Hallelujah Chorus; music scores will be provided.)

*Charge and Proclamation

One: Whoever you are, wherever you go in God's wide world, whatever happens to you of good or ill, always remember that . . .

Many: Jesus is Lord!

One: And now live this day and always for Christ Jesus because the Risen Christ lives in you.

Many: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

***Congregational Choir** "Hallelujah Chorus" | G. F. Handel

Postlude "Toccata from the 5th Organ Symphony" | Charles Marie Widor

The Flowering of the Cross

(Please join us outside the main sanctuary entrance, on College Avenue, for the Flowering of the Cross, an ancient Christian tradition. Flowers will be made available in the narthex. After participating, kindly return to the atrium for coffee and other refreshments. He who was dead has come back to life! Happy Easter!)

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Michael Beachy and Elizabeth Klynstra met in 2016 and continued a long-distance relationship through 2019 before Michael relocated to Grand Rapids. They married in September of 2020. Elizabeth has enjoyed a long career in local journalism and currently works as a Regional Digital Director for Nexstar, WOOD TV's parent company. Michael is a writer, and currently serves as Central's communications coordinator. Michael and Elizabeth are excited to have found a home church and are eager to grow their involvement with Central through their time, talent, gifts, and service.

Most of you probably already know **Nick and Caroline Loubert**. Nick has been working at Central for over two years as the Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, and Caroline has been attending since she moved to Grand Rapids in the summer of 2020. Caroline works at the Reformed Church in America as a data coordinator, and enjoys volunteering with the youth. Nick and Caroline were married in Harbor Springs in September of 2020, and are so excited to be officially joining the Central Family.

Sarah Van't Hof and David Laughter are excited to return to Central Reformed after having celebrated their marriage here in 2010. Since then, they have been blessed with two children—a son, Liam Matthew; and a daughter, Charlotte Sue. Sarah is the daughter of long time members, Paul and Carole Van't Hof, and was baptized and raised in Central. She spent much of her time singing for the congregation during Christmas and other celebrations and hopes to share her voice again one day. In the meantime, Sarah and David are looking forward to building relationships with the people of Central as they raise their children to know and love God.

Hudson and Natalie Rowland, along with two year-old daughter Vivian and four-month-old Rita, have been attending Central for the past six months. Married eight years, they have lived in the Chicago area as well as south Florida before moving back to Grand Rapids. Natalie is a writer and Hudson works in IT consulting. They are glad to be a part of the Central family and are looking forward to helping serve Central and Grand Rapids.

Burt and Kathy VanderLaan met at Hope College, spent most of their years in the Chicago area, and moved back to West Michigan to be closer to their family. Burt is a recently retired physician, and Kathy a retired high school teacher. They were formerly members of Brookside CRC where Burt served as an elder and Kathy as a deacon, but have been worshipping at Central Reformed since before Christmas. They have greatly enjoyed being part of the Chancel Choir at Central, and Kathy has also been playing handbells with the Celebration Ringers. Burt has been a regular attendee at the Men's Bible Study, and they both look forward to additional ways to serve at Central Reformed.

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Sincerest thanks for the generosity of those who contributed to the beauty of our Sanctuary this morning with the purchase of Easter flower(s). Please take your plant(s) home following today's worship service.

GIVEN BY

The Albertson Family
Brian, Jennifer, Emma & Owen Andrew
Paul Bukaweski & Steve Timmer
Central Reformed Church
Dr. William S. Davidson II
Mary M. DuChene & Dr. William S. Davidson II
Thomas M. Folkert
Marilyn Klyn Galer
Paul Geelhoed & Tara Decker
Ingrid Gerger
Danford Gibbs
Ron & Nancy Hager
Martha Norden Harvey & Walter Harvey
Suzanne Karsen
Candace & Hugh Meinema
Bill & Pat Mills
Gary & Faye Myers
Bea Nagel

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mimi Nestor; Donna Witt
Peter & Karen Payette
Ellen Bukaweski
Lenora Ridder
Lynne Anne (Groendyke) Davidson
William S. & Barbara R (Scheffer) Davidson
Charlotte Geelhoed
James Galer
Charlotte & Earl Geelhoed
Ed Gerger
Wanda Gibbs
Jim & Marge Hager; Bob & Betty DeYoung
Rev. Russell L. Norden; Jim & Hilda Harvey
James Karsen
Our parents
Our parents
Harvey & Ella DeGood; Maynard & Evelyn Myers
My parents, Clara & John Nagel; Sandy Nagel



GIVEN BY

John & Nancy Norden

Nancy & John Norden

Ken & Bonnie Noorman

Steve & Monica Pierce

Helen E. Phillips

Steve Timmer & Paul Bukaweski

Patsy & Paul Troost

Burt & Kathy VanderLaan

David H. VanDyke

Jack VanHouten

The Witmer Family

GIVEN BY

Dan & Linda Ballast

Paul Bukaweski & Steve Timmer

Marilyn Klyn Galer

Steve & Monica Pierce

Donna Marie Post

Kathy & Stu Stewart

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Marsh & Patricia Norden; Timothy Maloney

James Sr. & Helena Riekse; James Riekse. Jr.

Barney & Esther Noorman;
William & Helen Jamieson

Our grandparents

Mom & Dad; Barb & Bill

Kathy & John Timmer

Jean & Paul Troost; Elke Walsworth

Our parents

Janet Elaine VanDyke; Gilbert & Irene VanDyke

Jeremy VanHouten

Martin & Nancy Bolt

IN HONOR OF

Our sons, Bradford & Matthew

Jim Bukaweski

In honor & memory of the extended
Galer family and the extended Klyn family

Our parents

Platform 4

Spencer Sweitzer

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Pastor Steven D. Pierce
Liturgist: Duncan M. MacLean III
Reader: Patricia Duthler
Director of Music Ministries: Taemin Han
Principal Organist: Norma de Waal Malefyt
Crucifer: Britta Bailey
Acolyte: Anya Bailey

Offertory Prayer: Chris Bailey
Chancel Choir
Celebration Ringers
Trombonist: Paul Troost
Flutist: Jodi MacLean
Video Tech: Tom Smith
Sound Tech: Tom TerMaat

WELCOME

New to Central? Thank you for joining us today, whether in person or online. 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 182 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, please visit our website: www.centralreformedchurch.org.

Nursery: Our nursery is located directly below the atrium and will be staffed by two caregivers. Children can be dropped off any time after 9:30 a.m. We ask that children are picked up no later than 12:15 p.m.

Children and Worship: Children and Worship is for children ages four through those in third grade and begins following dismissal from the Children's Moment during service. Children may be picked up from the **worship center** directly following the service. Visiting parents are also invited to visit class with their student to meet their teachers.

AFTER THE SERVICE

Easter Egg Hunt: Children are welcome to join us in the courtyard for our annual easter egg hunt! The hunt begins fifteen minutes after the end of the service.

Coffee and Fellowship: Everyone is welcome to coffee and refreshments in the atrium following service. We would love to take this time to get to know you a little better and personally welcome you to Central.

Middle & High School Youth Group: No youth group on Easter! We will be back next Sunday, April 24, 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.

WORSHIP NOTES

Who We Are Praying for Today: for Ukrainians mourning the loss of loved ones as well as their homeland; for world leaders facing the multiple crises wrought by Russia's invasion of Ukraine; for family and friends mourning the loss of 26-year-old Patrick Lyoya; for the Grand Rapids Police Department; for a renewed commitment to building a just and equitable society here in Grand Rapids; for Ron Beuker; for Kathy Stewart; for all fighting cancer and others who are anxious about their health or the health of loved ones; for those with mental health challenges; for those battling addiction; for all who minister to and care for the sick and grieving; for those grieving and grappling with a strange, new life without their loved one; for those traveling to Israel from our congregation; for our ecumenical neighbors, particularly Calvary Church.

About Easter: All the hopes and expectations of Christians are realized in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, making Easter the most celebrated day of the church year. Because the good news of Easter can hardly be contained in a single day's celebration, today is only the first of fifty days of Eastertide—also, the "Great Fifty Days"—that lead up to Pentecost. Death has been conquered! May the joy of the Risen Christ be yours this day and every day. Happy Easter!

About the Apostles Creed: Reformed churches have always esteemed the ancient creeds of the church. The Apostles Creed addressed the challenge of Gnosticism, a school of belief that denied Jesus was fully human. The creed was not written by any one person or even by the apostles themselves. It dates no later than the fourth century and summarizes the apostles' teachings as a statement of faith.

Sunday, April 24, 2022: All are welcome to join us for worship at 10:00 a.m., either online or in person. Pre-service music begins at 9:50 a.m., and our guest preacher, Rev. Mark Veldt, will deliver a sermon titled, "Two Transforming Truths" based on John 20:24-31.

Media Connections: Today's service is available via livestream through our website: centralreformedchurch.org. Find us on Facebook on Instagram (@centralrefgr).

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



May Potluck: Is one of your recipes featured in the new Central Cookbook? If so, you are invited to bring your contributing dish to Central's May brunch! Otherwise, bring one of your specialty dishes. The youth will also host a Sunday Sundae Bar, featuring Ella's Favorite Hot Fudge Sauce, straight from the Central Cookbook. Sign up via the QR code or this url: bit.ly/MayBrunch

Dr. Mark Veldt Returns: Sunday, April 24, Dr. Mark Veldt will again join us for second hour with a class titled "The Third Day He Rose Again from the Dead." Dr. Veldt will lead a discussion touching upon what this phrase from the Apostles Creed meant to the early church, whether Jesus rose spiritually or physically, and how these questions affect our faith. Class will be held at 11:15 a.m. with study guides available in the atrium. All are welcome to join.

Prayer and Pastoral Care: Pastor Steve will be in Israel/Palestine April 22-May 6. If you need prayer or have a pastoral emergency, please contact Kristy Zomberg, Church Administrator, at 616.456.1773 or at office@centralreformedchurch.org. If you have a prayer request to share through the Central prayer chain, please contact Carol Bergman at clstaff67@gmail.com, or contact Kristy.

Israel Pilgrimage Tour: A group from Central will be leaving to explore the Holy Land on Friday, April 22. Please remain steadfast in prayer for Dale & Carol Austin, Bart & Pat DenBoer (trip leaders), Norma de Waal Malefyt, Patricia Duthler, Ron & Nancy Hager, Kanu & Comfort Jigo, Nick & Caroline Loubert, Duncan & Jodi MacLean, and Steve & Monica Pierce.

STEWARDSHIP



Giving: Your financial gifts help Central fulfill its mission of connecting all people to God and to one another. As your situation allows, please consider a gift to Central. To make a one-time or recurring gift, either via credit card or via your bank account, please visit Central's online giving platform: bit.ly/centralgive, also accessible via QR code. Thank you for your generosity.

OUTREACH

Meals for Mel Trotter: Students are invited to join Nick Wednesday night at 5:00 p.m. to put together 50 lunches for Mel Trotter Ministries, which will then be distributed to the homeless in Grand Rapids. Dinner will be provided, please let Nick know if you plan to help out!

Undie Sunday: Between next Sunday, April 24, and Sunday, May 1, the Christian Action Team will collect underwear donations. Members are invited to bring new underwear for men, women, and children for donation to In The Image. Donations will be distributed freely among those facing financial hardships and homelessness. Laundry baskets will be in the atrium to receive your donations.



Central Reformed Church
10 College Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
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