

**CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 14, 2024**

REFLECTION

“The resurrection is the day of Christ’s crowning. He was Son and Messiah already before His incarnation. He was that also in His humiliation. But then His inner being was hidden under the form of a servant.

Now, however, God openly cries out and declares Him to be Lord and Christ, Prince and Savior. Now Christ takes up again that glory which He had before with the Father (John 17:5).

After this He takes on ‘another form,’ another figure, a different form of existence. He who was dead has become alive, and lives in all eternity, and He has the keys of heaven and of hell (Rev. 1:18).

He is the Prince of life, the source of salvation, and the one appointed by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.

Further, the resurrection of Christ is a fountain of good for His church and for the whole world. It is the ‘Amen’ of the Father upon the ‘Finished’ of the Son. Christ was delivered up for our sins and raised for our justification (Rom. 4:25).”

–Herman Bavinck, *Our Reasonable Faith or The Wonderful Works of God* (trans. Henry Zylstra; Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2016), 350-351.

Sources and Credits:

Cover art: “The Sun” by Edvard Munch

Votum, Sentences, Salutation: Psalm 124:8; Psalm 4; Revelation 1:4-5

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1

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ORDER OF WORSHIP | THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER | APRIL 14, 2024 | 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING IN LOVE

The prelude is a call for personal preparation for the worship of God.

Prelude "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia - A Tanzanian Alleluia" | Franklin D. Ashdown
"Variations on 'Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!'" | Piet Post

Introit "We Sing as We Arise Today" | William P. Rowan

*We sing as we arise today! We call on our Creator's might:
the will of God to be our guide, the eye of God to be our sight.*

*The word of God to be our speech, the hand of God to be our stay,
The shield of God to be our strength, the path of God to be our way.*

***Processional Hymn** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" | 113

***Votum, Sentences, Salutation**

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

Many: Amen.

One: The Lord hears us when we call:

Many: Come, let us put our trust in God.

One: The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:

Many: Come, let us sing God's praises with shouts of joy!

One: The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:

Many: Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God's grace.

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.

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

***Invitation to Confession**

One: Let us confess all that distracts and distorts God's truth, so we can know grace
and forgiveness through Christ.

***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. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made.

Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to 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:

In I John we read, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1:9). Friends, believe the good news:

Many:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***Hymn**

"Before the Throne of God Above" | see end of order

***Peace**

One:

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

Many:

And also with you.

LISTENING IN EXPECTATION

Children's Moment

One:

Congregation, what is your prayer for these children?

Many:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**First Lesson
and Testimony**

Psalm 16:11 (page 430)

***Hymn of Response**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" | 281

**Second Lesson
and Testimony**

Revelation 7:9-10 (page 999)

Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

***Hymn**

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" | 142

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith

One: What is your only comfort in life and in death?
Many: **That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

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. During this time, please fill out the friendship pads and pass them. To receive weekly updates and announcements, please include your e-mail address.

Offertory

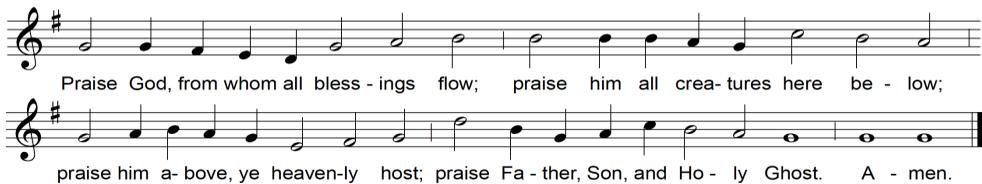
“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” | Dale Wood

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the Head and Cornerstone;
chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion’s help forever, and her confidence alone.*

*To this temple where we call thee, come O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls away.*

*Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and over One,
One in might and One in glory, while unending ages run.*

*Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him all crea - tures here be - low;
praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*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 Orchard View Church of God.

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

"In Christ Alone" | see end of order

*Charge and Blessing

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:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Many:

Amen!

Postlude

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" | Paul Manz

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Principal Organist: Norma de Waal Malefyt

Director of Music Ministries: Taemin Han

Chancel Choir

Crucifer: Merrin McWilliams

Acolyte: Morgan McWilliams

Liturgists:

Ingrid TerMaat, Lauren Hoezee, Ben Hoezee

Children's Moment:

Brooke TerMaat and Lauren Hoezee

Lesson Readers:

Kaleb Jigo, Brooke TerMaat

Senior Testimonies:

Clayton Gearhart and Britta Bailey

Pastor: Rev. Matt Shults

Offertory Prayer: Martha Norden Harvey

Video Tech: Michael Beachy

Sound Tech: Tom Smith

Central Reformed Church
presents

All-Bach Concert

Sunday, May 5, 2024 | 5:00 p.m.

free admission | ample parking space

Taemin Han - director

Julia Brown, Gregory Crowell - harpsichordists

Karen Albert - mezzo soprano, Emanuel-Cristian Caraman - tenor

Scott Bosscher - baritone

The Central Reformed Chancel Choir with The Choral Scholars

The program includes:

Concerto for Two Harpsichords in C minor, BWV 1060

Cantata - Wo gehest du hin?, BWV 166

Motet - Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden, BWV 230

10 College Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.centralreformedchurch.org

Bm G D A Bm2

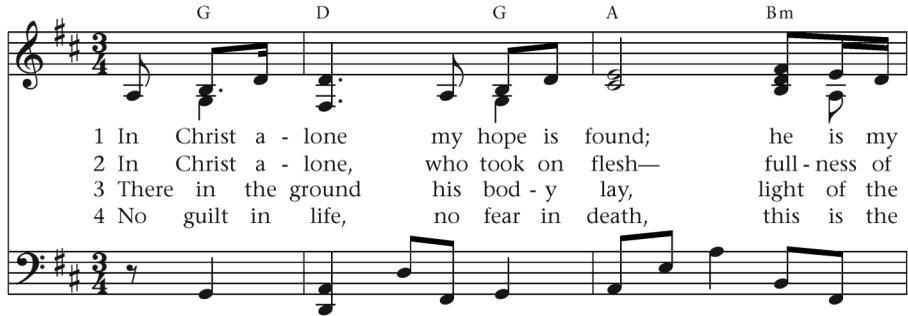
heart; I know that while in heaven he stands no tongue can
 free; for God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on
 blood; my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my

Em Bm Em G D

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
 Sav - ior and my God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

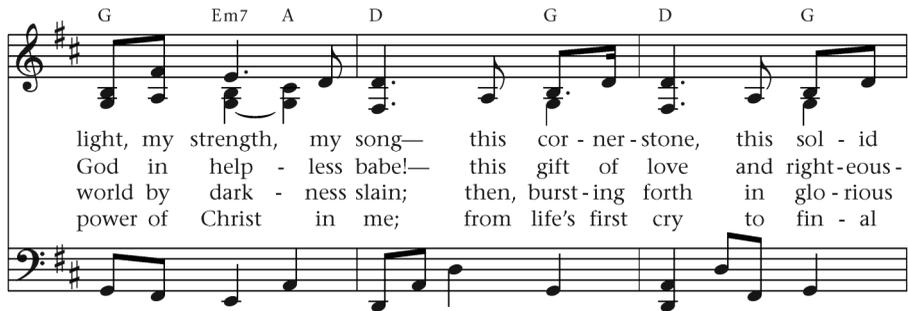
"IN CHRIST ALONE"

G D G A Bm



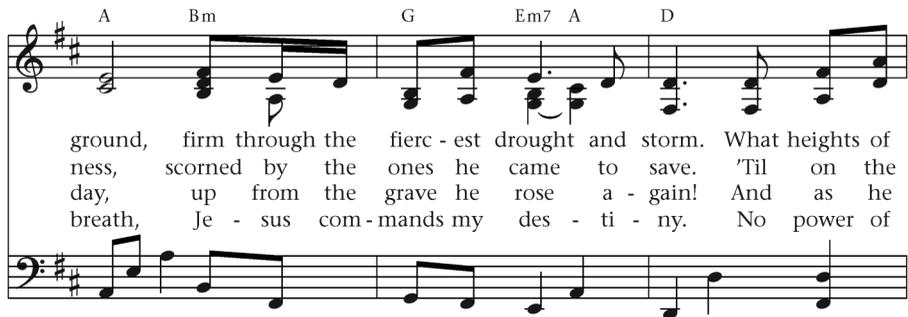
1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh— full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

G Em7 A D G D G



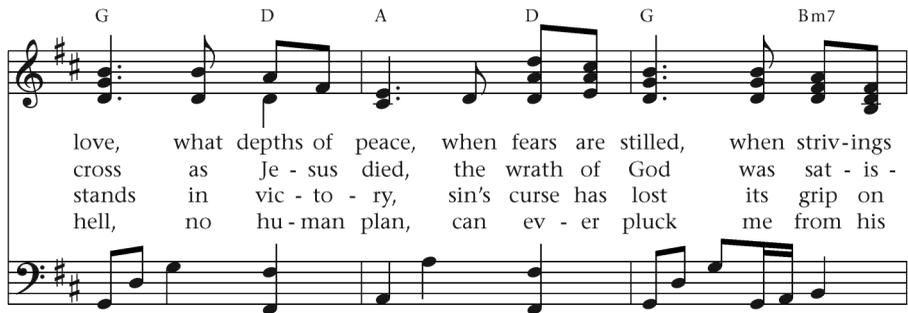
light, my strength, my song— this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe!— this gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious
power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fin - al

A Bm G Em7 A D



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save. 'Til on the
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain! And as he
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No power of

G D A D G Bm7



love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er pluck me from his

A G D G A

cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all,
 fied. For ev - ery sin on him was laid;
 me; for I am his and he is mine,
 hand; 'til he re - turns or calls me home,

Bm G Em7 A D

here in the love of Christ I stand.
 here in the death of Christ I live.
 bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

4/14/24-4/20/24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4/14	4/15	4/16	4/17	4/18	4/19	4/20
Worship 10:00 a.m.		Stitchers Ministry (Parlor) 10:00am	Women's Bible Study (Parlor) 9:30 a.m.			
Sunday Morning Education 11:15 a.m.			Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 10:00 a.m.			
Membership Meeting (Conference Room) 11:15 a.m.					Men's Group (Parlor) 12:00 p.m.	
		Addie's Pantry 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Clergy on Patrol 12:00 p.m.			
					Celebration Ringers 6:00 p.m.	
Youth Group 6:00 p.m.		Faye's Diner 5:30 p.m.		Chancel Choir 7:15 p.m.		



STEWARDSHIP

Giving: 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/central give, also accessible via QR code.

LIFE at CENTRAL

(Week of Sunday, April 14, 2024)

WELCOME

New to Central? Thank you for joining us for worship! Our mission is to connect all people to God and to one another through scripture, sacrament, song, and service. We have been in ministry since 1840 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.

Thank you: We would like to thank all the students who helped with today's worship service. In particular, we would like to thank Britta Bailey and Clayton Gearhart for sharing their testimonies. Thank you to all of you! Central Reformed Church is a better faith community because of all of you!

Next Sunday, April 21: Join us for worship at 10:00 a.m. Live stream will be available. Anya Bailey will make Profession of Faith, and we will welcome new members. Pastor Steve Pierce will be preaching on the subject, "Confessing Christ in a Pluralistic World" based on Acts 4:5-12.

MINISTRY FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayers of the People: thanksgiving for our visitors and for all those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other milestones; for peace in war-torn countries, especially Israel, Palestine, Ukraine; for those in need of God's comfort and peace; for loved ones under hospice care, undergoing tests, and those battling cancer; for those who have recently undergone surgery; for those with mental health challenges; for those battling addictions; for Orchard View Church of God.

OUTREACH

Lenten Offering Update: The final calculation for this year's offering for Servant's Community Church (RCA) is \$3,057. Thank you for helping to make a difference!

Addie's Pantry update: The pantry will be open this Tuesday, April 16. Numbers remain high, the pantry served 29 families on Tuesday April 9, 2024. Seventy-eight households were served in March representing 233 individuals, 83 of whom are children.

Undie Sunday: The Christian Action Team will be collecting underwear donations through Sunday, May 12. 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. Look for the In The Image Box in the atrium.

Heritage Hill Tour of Homes and the Garden Tour: Central will again be supporting the tour(s) on May 18 and 19, and on June 15 respectively. Free parking, providing a shuttle bus stop, use of atrium restrooms, as well as distribution of water and ice cream. The funding for our participation will come from an outreach fund, not the CAT budget. We will however need to staff the church during the hours of both tours. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Paul Troost, the new chair of the Christian Action Team (CAT), or any member of CAT.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Children's Choir and Joyful Noise: will have their music time with Mr. Taemin Han in the choir room today, Sunday, April 14.

> 11:20 a.m. - 11:50 p.m. - Children's Choir (K-3rd)

> 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Joyful Noise (4th-6th)

They will be preparing to sing during service on Sunday, April 28. Also, there will be a talent show after service for all who want to share their gifts.

Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal: Next Sunday, April 21, the Instrumental Ensemble of all ages will have a rehearsal after service from 11:15 to 11:35 a.m. Please bring your instruments and music. Music time for the Children's Choir and Joyful Noise will immediately follow.

Sunday, April 28, Symphony of Praise: We will glorify our God with musical talents at Central! Musical groups of all ages, including the newly formed "Instrumental Ensemble", will present musical offerings during the service, followed by a talent show in the chapel at 11:15 a.m. This is going to be an exciting day in the life of our church. If you would like to participate in the instrumental ensemble during the service and/or the talent show after the service, please contact Taemin at than@centralreformedchurch.org.

MINISTRY FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

If you are visiting today, we are so glad you're here! If you need help finding our nursery, children and worship center, fireside room, middle or high school rooms, look for an usher, a pastor, or someone with a nametag! They would be more than happy to help.

Nursery: Our nursery is available to families with children from birth to three years old, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our trained volunteer this morning is Teresa Rinvelt and Brooke TerMaat will be interning. Our nursery is located directly beneath the atrium.

Children and Worship: Will not meet this week. Worship Binders are available in the atrium for children to use during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Sunday Morning Education (April 14):

- > Middle Schoolers meet with Mr. Duncan MacLean in the Middle School Room (downstairs)
- > 4,5,6ers meet with Jamie McWilliams in the Fireside Room (downstairs)
- > High Schoolers meet with Pastor Matt Shults in Dykstra Chapel

Youth Group: Meets tonight at 6:00 p.m.

Funds for Belize Trip: If you would you like to help our youth fundraise for their summer trip to Belize, an Envelope Board is available in the Atrium. Grab an envelope with a fundraising amount on it and bring it back with that amount of money in it. It is a simple and easy way to help the students pay for their trip. If you have any questions, please let Pastor Matt know.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday Morning Adult Education: We offer a variety of classes, welcoming different perspectives, voices, and stories to help members and visitors alike grow in both faith in and understanding of the Gospel message. On Sundays at 11:15 a.m., join us for the following classes:

> **April 14**

Matt Shults, Reflections on Youth Ministry (Dykstra Chapel)

Brian Andrew, Coffee and Conversation (Parlor)

Kanu Jigo, Sermon Reflection and Discussion (Brander Library - lower level)

> **April 21**

Felix Theonugraha, president, Western Theological Seminary (Dykstra Chapel)

What are the current issues facing the Seminary and Reformed theological education?

> **April 28**

Musical Talent Show (all ages) - *no adult education classes*

> **May 5**

Brian Andrew, Coffee and Conversation (Parlor)

Kanu Jigo, Sermon Reflection and Discussion (Brander Library - lower level)

> **May 19**

Brian Andrew, Coffee and Conversation (parlor)

Membership Meeting (Today, April 14): For those planning to join Central on Sunday, April 21, please join Pastor Steve Pierce and the elders in the conference room at 11:15 a.m.

Women's Bible Study: The last class will be held this Wednesday, April 17.

Men's Group: The men's gathering will resume this Thursday, April 18 at noon in the conference room. The spring study will focus on Jeff Munroe's book, *Telling Stories in the Dark: Finding Healing and Hope in Sharing Our Sadness, Grief, Trauma, and Pain*. Those who need copies may email Pastor Steve. In preparation for our discussion on April 18, the group is being asked to read the prologue and chapters 1 and 5 of the book.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Request Cards: When we pray for each other, we manifest God's love, a love that creates, sustains, and redeems the relationships we have with one another and with God. In that spirit, we would be honored to partner with you in prayer. Prayer request cards are available in the pews and in the atrium. They may be placed in the prayer box located on the table in the atrium (next to the elevator). Please indicate on the card if you'd like a pastor or an elder to contact you. Feel free to contact Pastor Steve Pierce directly at 616.585.0651 or spierce@centralreformedchurch.org.

Central Office Hours: The office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Should you have any questions, please contact our office coordinator Ava Koebel - 616.585.0628, or email akoebel@centralreformedchurch.org.

Announcements: Please send announcements for Life at Central to akoebel@centralreformedchurch.org by noon on Wednesday. (Announcements may be edited for consistency, clarity, and conciseness.)



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