



**CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SYMPHONY OF PRAISE
APRIL 28, 2024**

REFLECTION

“Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.”

Ephesians 5:18-19 *New International Version*

Sources and Credits:

Cover art: image from UC Davis Magazine

Confession and Assurance adapted from Psalm 100

Affirmation of Faith: Psalm 138:1-6

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ORDER OF WORSHIP | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | APRIL 28, 2024 | 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING IN LOVE

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

Prelude "Hymn to Joy" | Michael Burkhardt, quoting "Voluntary IX" by John Stanley
"A Day to Rejoice!" | Michael Mazzatenta
"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" | Johann Gottfried Walther

Introit "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord" | Taemin Han

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before his presence with joyful songs.
For the Lord is good; his love is everlasting;
And his truth endureth to all generations.
Amen. Amen. (Psalm 100:1-2, 5)*

***Processional Hymn** "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" | 482

***Votum, Sentences, Salutation**

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

Many: Amen.

One: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!

**Many: Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

One: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Many: Praise the Lord!

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.

***Invitation to Confession**

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

***Prayer of Confession**

Many:

God, you call us to shout to you with joy, and we confess that we do not always do so. We are called to bless your name, and too often we focus on ourselves. You call us to enter your courts with praise and to come before you with singing, and we have not followed through. Forgive us our sins as we come before you with thanksgiving. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Guide for Grateful Living**

One:

Lord of all creation, tune the instruments of our lives and choreograph the dance of your church so that, through word and deed, your people may persistently proclaim your glory, majesty, love, and goodness, until everything that breathes sings,

Many:

"Hallelujah!"

One:

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer.

Many:

Amen.

***Peace**

One:

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

Many:

And also with you.

Response of Praise

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" | Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Taemin Han

***Hymn**

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" | 104

LISTENING IN EXPECTATION

First Lesson

Psalm 146 (page 507)

Children's Anthem

"Clap Your Hands" | Taemin Han

*Clap, clap, clap your hands all you nations,
shout, shout, shout to God with a voice of singing.*

*Praise, praise, praise our God with your drums and bells,
come, come, come to give thanks to our God.*

Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen!

Children's Moment

One:

Congregation, what is your prayer for these children?

Many:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Second Lesson Colossians 3:15-17 (page 958)

Sermon "Singing Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs"

Prayer for a Blessing on the Word

Silence for Reflection

***Hymn** "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" | 150

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*Affirmation of Faith

One: Praise the Lord! I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

Many: **I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

One: On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

Many: **All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

One: They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

Many: **For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

Announcements

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

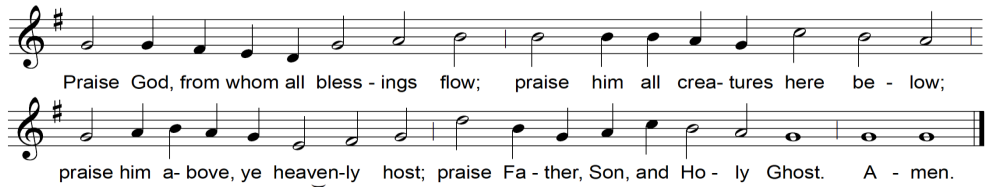
In a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving, let us worship God through the giving of our tithes and offerings. During this time, please fill out the friendship pads and pass them. To receive weekly updates and announcements, please include your e-mail address.

Offertory "Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing" | Gordon Young

Now (So) let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise; that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing alleluia, sing alleluia!

All ye servants of the Lord, praise him forever, sing Jehovah's mighty power, praise him forever. Sing of his righteousness, praise him forever.

*Doxology



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him all crea - tures here be - low;
praise him a - bove, ye heav - en - 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 faculty, staff, and students at Western Theological Seminary.

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

Many:

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

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified" | 264

*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

"Prelude and Fugue in C Major" | J.S. Bach

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Principal Organist: Norma de Waal Malefyt

Director of Music Ministries: Taemin Han

Celebration Ringers

Instrumental Ensemble

Children's Choir

Joyful Noise

Chancel Choir

Crucifer: Anya Bailey

Acolyte: Merrin McWilliams

Liturgist: Nick Loubert

First Lesson Reader: Rick Overway

Preacher: Rev. Steve Pierce

Offertory Prayer: Jay Harsevoort

Video Tech: Michael Beachy

Sound Tech: Tom TerMaat

WORSHIP IN THE REFORMED TRADITION

Each week at Central, the center of our worship is the Word—by which we mean both Scripture and the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Our Scripture witnesses to God and God’s activity. When it is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. It is this Living Word that is the center of everything we do in worship.

In the sixth chapter of Isaiah, a pattern for worship emerges: adoration, confession, forgiveness, thanksgiving, and service. Here’s how that pattern is followed from week to week at Central:

GATHERING IN LOVE: Overwhelmed by God’s majesty and glory, we gather together in praise and hopeful expectation offered through music, song, and prayer.

In the face of that great goodness of God, we also see how we fall short of being who we were created to be and join our voices in a prayer of confession.

We then proclaim the forgiveness that we know in Jesus Christ. We live our lives in this cycle of realizing where we fall short, being honest to God about that, and then recognizing that God always forgives us, even before the words are on our lips, allowing us to begin anew.

LISTENING IN EXPECTATION: As we listen for the Word of God, Scripture is read. The sermon is proclaimed. We respond to the Word with thanksgiving, joining in song and affirming our faith, using words from the Apostles Creed or one of the other professions of faith—or words taken directly from Scripture.

RESPONDING IN FAITH: Our response of thanksgiving also includes the giving of our material goods, bringing to God the offerings of our work as symbols of our gratitude and our acknowledgment that everything we have comes from God. In prayer we dedicate these gifts and our lives to the work of the church and God’s mission. Following Jesus’ instruction to pray, in the Prayers of the People we bring human need before God in hope, trust, and thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

Throughout the year we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Christians, adults and infants, are baptized with Jesus into the reality of God’s creation. Our baptism joins us to Christ and his church, and it affirms our true identity as creations of a loving God. On the first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. In the act of remembering that is the Lord’s Supper, we receive and trust the love of Christ present to us and to the world. Through it, we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

DEPARTING IN JOY: God then sends us, like Isaiah, back out into the world in service. Our final hymn of grateful praise moves directly into a benediction and charge to take what we have heard, to take what we have learned, and to actively live it out in the world, looking for God’s work all around us.

We do this and more in worship because God is worthy of our praise and trust.

OUR CONSISTORY

Elders

Nancy Hager
Burt VanderLaan

Patricia Duthler
Jodi MacLean
Helen Phillips

Kanu Jigo
Dawn Tillema

Deacons

Fritz Gearhart
Ethan Wheeler

Paul Bukaweski
Martha Norden Harvey
Ryan Rinvelt

Cindy DeVrou
Jay Harsevoort

OUR STAFF

Mark and Sally Bulthuis, Addie's Pantry co-directors
Norma de Waal Malefyt, principal organist
Steffany Dunker, Faye's Diner coordinator
Taemin Han, director of music ministries
Jay Harsevoort, Faye's Diner coordinator
Diane Kersjes, Faye's Diner coordinator
Ava Koebel, office coordinator
Steven D. Pierce, senior minister
Matt Shults, minister for congregational care
Dallas Toth, maintenance specialist
Jana Trees, financial administrator
Jennifer Webb, lead wedding coordinator

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

4/28/24–5/04/24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4/28	4/29	4/30	5/1	5/2	5/3	5/4
Worship 10:00 a.m.			Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 10:00 a.m.			All-Bach Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:00 a.m.
Talent Show (Dykstra Chapel) 11:15 a.m.			Earth Angel's Meeting (Garden Room) 11:15 a.m.			
				Men's Group (Parlor) 12:00 p.m.		
		Addie's Pantry 1:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.				
Youth Group 6:00 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 28, 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.

Today's Symphony of Praise Worship: Because it has a way of piercing into the deep parts of our soul, music frames all of our services at Central. It assists us in our expression and response to God and to the church. Hymns and other forms of music instruct us in the Good News, and the melodies and the phrasing of the music make our faith memorable. Music that honors God will cause our hearts to sing, and it is our singing that fulfills God's command: "Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!" (Psalm 100:2). When our hearts sing, worship happens. We're transformed on the inside as we're filled with the Spirit and devote everything we are to glorifying our great God. Be thankful for the ways music in worship has touched your own heart and life.

Thank You: Today is a special day of recognizing just how important music is in our worship. We are grateful for all of our music participants and for the strong support of our congregation. Please continue to pray for our music ministry and for continued growth as we develop our musical gifts in praising God.

Talent Show (Today): In Dykstra Chapel at 11:15 a.m., we will glorify our God with musical and artistic gifts. Please come and support our youth and adults as they share their talents!

Next Sunday, May 2: Join us for Worship and Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. Live stream will be available. Pastor Steve Pierce will be preaching on the subject, "From Exclusion to Embrace" based on Acts 10:44-48.

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 Western Theological Seminary.

Pastoral Care: To notify pastoral staff of personal concerns, illness, hospitalization, deaths, or to request prayer, contact Pastor Matt. (Hospitals do not inform churches when a member is admitted.) Those experiencing difficult times are invited to leave a confidential message with Pastor Matt. 616.889.4265 (cell).

Central Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request to share through the Central prayer chain, please contact Carol Bergman at clstaff67@gmail.com or call the church office at 616.456.1773 to leave a message. If you wish to be added to the prayer chain email list, please e-mail the church office at office@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 Mary Gerbens and Merrin McWilliams will be interning. Our nursery is located directly beneath the atrium.

Children and Worship: Our leaders this week are Jon Lunderberg and Terry DeVries who will be sharing the story, "The Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper." Children will be brought back to the atrium after the conclusion of second hour. Worship Binders are available in the atrium for children to use during the 10:00 a.m. Worship service, stocked with materials related to today's message.

Sunday Morning Education (April 28):

- > Middle Schoolers will resume class in the fall.
- > 4,5,6ers do not meet today.
- > High Schoolers do not meet today.

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.

OUTREACH

Addie's Pantry update: The pantry will be open this Tuesday, April 30.

Undie Sunday: The Christian Action Team is 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 container 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

Lunch Event: For all musical group members and their families, there will be a lunch in the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the piano in the choir room, and you can also RSVP to Taemin at than@centralreformedchurch.org. We are asking for \$10 from each adult, and there will be no charge for children.

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 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)

Men's Group: The men will meet this Thursday, May 2 at noon in the parlor. They are currently reading Jeff Munroe's book, *Telling Stories in the Dark: Finding Healing and Hope in Sharing Our Sadness, Grief, Trauma, and Pain*. This Thursday, the men will focus on Chapter 6. If you'd like to learn more, please speak with Burt VanderLaan or with Pastor Steve.

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.

Men's Group: Will meet at Brewery Vivant on Thursday, May 23rd for Happy Hour from 4:00-5:30pm.

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.

Membership at Central: As a congregation of the Reformed Church in America, we welcome all who profess faith in Jesus Christ to become part of the membership of our church. Membership is a declaration that you share in the fellowship, work, and witness of this congregation. Being a member doesn't mean you have it all figured out, but it does mean you're willing and committed to figuring it out alongside others at Central. We receive new members by profession of faith upon baptism, reaffirmation of faith, or letter of transfer from another church. If you are interested in learning more, please speak to Pastor Steve, Pastor Matt, or one of our elders.

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
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

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