



HE IS NOT HERE
HE IS RISEN
LUKE 24:6
+



Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

April 20, 2025 – Easter Sunday

***A special welcome to the Fountainview Academy Choir as they join us in celebrating this glorious Easter Day!**

“Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!”

Prelude

Easter Introduction Video

*** Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #182 v. 1-5
*“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”***

All

1. Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth, reply: Alleluia!

All

2. Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise; Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Women Only

3. Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Once he died, our souls to save; Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Men Only

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise; Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

All

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given; Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now; Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow. Alleluia!

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.; Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Welcome

* Easter Call to Worship and Greeting:

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

**People: He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: May His peace and presence be known to you.

People: And also to you.

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace to you
from God our Father and the risen
Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

* Mutual Greetings with the Historic Christian Testimony:

(Congregation members are encouraged to greet one another with the following words: *"The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!"*)

Ministry of Music: Fountainview Academy Choir

1. *"Blessed Be The Name"*

2. *"I'd Rather Have Jesus"*

1. I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus that houses or lands,
I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hand.

Refrain:

*Than to be the king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin's dread sway;
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.*

2. I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause,
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame,
I'd rather be true to His holy name.

Refrain

3. He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;
He's all that my hungering spirit needs,
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead.

Refrain

"I'd Rather Have Jesus" Words by Rhea F. Miller and Music by George Beverly Shea, Copyright © 1922, 1939 by Word Music, CCLI# 678905

"All creation, join to say: Alleluia!"

Announcements

Call to Confession

Easter Prayer

Words of Assurance:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

—1 Corinthians 15:54-57, NRSV

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #186 v. 1-3

“Low in the Grave He Lay”

1. Low in the grave he lay—
Jesus, my Savior;
waiting the coming day—
Jesus, my Lord.

Refrain

*Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign!
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

2. Vainly they watch his bed—
Jesus, my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead—
Jesus, my Lord.

Refrain

*Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign!
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

3. Death cannot keep its prey—
Jesus, my Savior;
he tore the bars away—
Jesus, my Lord.

Refrain

Words and Music: Robert Lowry, 1874, alt, P.D.; CCLI #678905

*(Following this hymn children the children
are invited up front for the Children’s Message)*

Children’s Message – Mrs. Marjo Rouw

*(Following the children’s message children ages 3-3rd grade
are invited to attend Children and Worship)*

We Give of Our Gifts

Offertory: "Ever Faithful" – Fountainview Academy Choir

"Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia"

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "**Remember How He Told You ...**"

Time of Prayer

"Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!"

* Song of Application: LUYH #770 v. 1-4 "In Christ Alone"

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then, bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no human plan,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
'til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

"In Christ Alone" Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend,
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CCLI# 678905

Ministry of Music: Fountainview Academy Choir

1. *"Behold Our God"*
2. *"Because He Lives"*
1. God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
because He lives all fear is gone,
because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because He lives.*

Words & Music: Gloria Gaither (b.1942) and William J. Gaither; Music: William J. Gaither (b. 1936), © Copyright 1971 by William J. Gaither. Used by permission.
CCLI# 678905

* We Profess our Faith

Leader: This is the good news that we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
Christ died for our sins, was buried,
was raised on the third day,
and appeared first to the women,
then to Peter and the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.

**People: We believe Jesus is the Christ,
the Anointed One of God,
the firstborn of all creation,
the firstborn from the dead,
in whom all things hold together,
in whom the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.**

Leader: Christ is the head of the body, the church,
and by the blood of the cross
reconciles all things to God.

**People: Christ has died! Christ has risen!
Christ will come again!**

– Based on I Corinthians 15:3-7 and Colossians 1:15-20

*Benediction

* Parting Praise: LUYH #366 v. 1-4 *“My Jesus, I Love Thee”*

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Acapella

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Words: William R. Featherstone, ca. 1862, P.D.; Music: Adoniram J. Gordon,
1876, P.D.; CCLI #678905

Postlude

Easter Welcome! He is risen! In the mighty name of our living Lord, we welcome you to this Easter service celebration. May you feel Christ's presence. Hear His Word proclaimed and be blessed and renewed. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: April 20	Next Week: April 27
Sound:	Mardy S.	Henry VZ
Projection:	France B.	Tim H.
Video:	Tim H.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund/GEMS

First CRC Bulletin Announcements

April 20, 2025

The deadline for announcements this next week is Thursday, 9:00 A.M.

This Week's Deep Q's with PB & J:

In terms of all our senses (sight, sound, smell, etc.), describe what you think the kingdom of God is and should be like, with people of "every tribe, nation, and language" gathering in worship and honoring God in all they do.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Sunday School resumes next Sunday morning at 9:30 am. There is no Sunday School this morning for Easter.

There is NO Choir Practice this morning after the service.

New Mailbox for Glen Scalf: #153

There are still slots open for volunteers to drive **Shirley Boonstra** to and from church for May & June. Check out the sign-up sheet today!

Easter Lilies & Bibles in the sanctuary were donated in memory of: Ben & Gerri Ackermann, Maria Al-Meshan, Harry & Ida Annema, Don Ashwell, Pete & Anna Bol, Jim Bollema, Fred Boonstra, Gerrit & Shanda Byle, Alice & Frank Cuperus, Rev. Harold DeGroot, Dennis DeKok, Owen DeVries, Raymond DeVries, Bill & Marge Eskes, Les Faber, Pete & Pauline Faber, Stan & Grace Faber, Ray & Grace Feddema, Andy & Gay Folkertsma, John & Helena Haarsma, Vonda Hall, Ellsworth & June Jungquist, Greg Klunder, Jim Klunder, John & Tess Klunder, Jack & Gertrude McKee, Dick Reitsma, Paul Roorda, Marinus Rouw, Mark & Katie Rouw, Otto Rouw, Karen Rutgers, Betty Stevens, Max & Willy Stevens, MaryAnn Swan, Rev. Paul Treick, Steve and Gerri Van Beek, Hank & Alida Vander Pol, Keith Vander Pol, Lyle & Evelyn Vander Pol, Wayne Vander Pol, Klaas & Patricia Van Zanten, Andy & Jan Vander Meulen, and Dick & Janie Verdoes.



There is a cookie sign-up sheet for after the GEMS Sunday service on the 27th of April. Please sign up today after church!

Worship Service YouTube Links:

AM April 13, 2025: <https://youtu.be/vpiBU6bV500>

CALENDAR:

Greeters/Coffee Hosts: April 20 (Easter): Dave & Nancy V., Eric & Theresa VK

Next Week, April 27: Cody & Amy S., Karen J., GEMS girls

Worship Team: April 20, Easter: Men's Group

Next Week, April 27: Greg & Beth B., France B, Emmalyn S., GEMS Girls

Nursery: April 20: Angela S. & Emma S.

Next Week, April 27: Marissa VDK & Noah VDK

Children in Worship April 20: Heidi B., Kenzi S.

Next Week, April 27: Angela S, Jennaya B.

Volunteers to drive Shirley B:

This Week: April 20 (Easter) Lexi Blom

Next week, April 27: Elly C.

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, April 20:

Worship Service: 10:30 am

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 27: GEMS Sunday

May 10, 1:30 p.m.: Memorial for Sandra Scalf

May 19, 7:00 p.m.: Congregational Meeting

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:

Cascade Family Bible Camp – July 3-7 at Warm Beach Camp, Stanwood, WA: Enjoy a faith-filled getaway with fellowship, worship, and fun activities for all ages! Hear inspiring speakers, engage in dynamic kids' programs, and take part in swimming, mini golf, sports, rock climbing, zip-line, laser tag and more.

<https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info> Register online:

<https://cascadefamilybiblecamp.org/registration-info>

For questions, contact rona718@hotmail.com or dean@lithocraft.com.

<https://youtu.be/jRiQjiHD6MM> or longer 2-minute video: <https://youtu.be/NNcnqNLU0s>

CRC COMMUNICATIONS:

40 Days of Prayer for Synod - You're invited into 40 days of intentional, guided prayer leading up to Synod 2025. The theme, Journey With Jesus, has been engaged with by a wide variety of CRC contributors. Learn more and sign up for either daily Scripture and prayers OR a week's worth of Scripture and prayers that will be emailed to you. crcna.org/synod/prayer

Eggs in the Giving Basket - Savvy farmers who put some of their eggs – or grains, almonds, berries, corn, or even livestock – in the giving basket avoid taxes AND have tremendous Kingdom impact. Commodities are often more cost-effective to give than cash! Are commodities the right giving option for you? We'd love to tell you more. Write to plannedgiving@crcna.org or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor at 616-223-5885

Kids Corner: Good News at Easter - Check out this week's kids' devotion "Good News at Easter" at www.kidscorner.net. Just like we know the voice of someone we love, Mary Magdalene knew it was Jesus when he called her name outside the empty tomb on Easter morning. That special moment changed everything for her! It reminds us to share the amazing news that Jesus is alive and loves us so much. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like KC's Lent and Easter Collection.

Groundwork: Easter: Jesus is Risen! - Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study the story of Jesus' resurrection in Mark 16:1-8, Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-10 to grow in faith by remembering and celebrating Christ's victory over death, and to see how we're invited to participate in telling the gospel story again. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Easter Greetings from Resonate - He is risen! When we follow Jesus, we have an opportunity to live into that truth a little more every day. We also step into a calling to work toward the kingdom transformation Jesus brought to earth. Resonate Global Mission, your mission agency, walks alongside you and your church as you join God on mission. Thank you for your prayer, care, and support for your missionaries and

church planters! This Easter season we have a special opportunity for you to double your impact—see details at www.resonateglobalmission.org/double

Abuse Awareness Sunday - April 27 - Next week, Thrive invites our church to imagine a more holistic approach to nurturing a safe and healthy church community where abuse itself becomes unthinkable and where survivors feel supported and safe. In preparation, learn more about Thrive's work toward safer churches and consider giving now to this valuable ministry that empowers all CRCs at their website: crcna.org/SafeChurch



How can
we
PRAY
for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at secretary@firstcrcmv.com or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

NEW CONCERNS:

Ruth Fondse, wife of Rev. John Fondse, who was pastor here at First CRC from 1967-1973, passed away this past week at the age of 101. Please keep her family, including our own Theresa Vander Kooy and family in your prayers for comfort and peace.

The Memorial Service **for Sandra Scalf** will be held here at First CRC on May 10 at 1:30pm. Please keep Glen and his family in your prayers during this time!

CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Elaine Hammingh has had a few heart procedures done recently and she has more scheduled for the coming weeks. Please pray for healing and guidance for the doctors.

Continue to pray for the families **of Mary Koopmans, Greg & Beth Boon, and Corky Vander Griend** in the recent loss of their loved one.

We thank God that the eye surgery **Greg Ackermann** had recently was successful. He is doing really well, and he sees his doctor next week.

Continue to pray for **Amy Stiles** as she continues with new heart medication.

Continue to pray for **John Velasquez**.

SHUT INS: Nell Annema and Shirley Boonstra at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; Marjean DeGroot at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; Martha Haarsma at home in Mount Vernon, Clarence Vander Griend at Home Place in Burlington; Sally Reehorn at Creekside in Burlington.

OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)

Monday April 14 - Resonate: Lithuania

“Pray for our student leaders who are continuing to grow in faith and to ask meaningful questions about belief. Ask God to continue to soften their hearts toward the good news and that they may have opportunities to discuss their questions often,” ask Resonate missionaries Joel and Hailey Altena, who serve at LCC International University.

Tuesday April 15 - World Renew: Rains in East Africa

After a very hot, dry season, farmers in East Africa have been awaiting the year’s first rainy season (typically from March to June) so that they can plant crops. Please pray that enough rain will come so that these farmers can feed their families and earn income. Pray that our agricultural programs may continue to help families improve their livelihoods.

Wednesday April 16 - ReFrame: Today devotions

Pray for people who are reading ReFrame’s Today devotions or special Lenten series for the first time. May they continue to read Scripture and apply it to their lives after Easter celebrations.

Thursday April 17 - Resonate: Michigan

Our church planting partners in Michigan ask you to pray for their ministry with Albanian and Afghan communities. Many of the individuals and families in these communities come from Muslim backgrounds. May they experience the love and grace of Christ through the church community and the relationships being formed.

Friday April 18 - Communications: Good Friday

In the Nicene Creed we confess: “For us and for our salvation [Jesus] came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.” As we remember Jesus’ suffering and death today, may we give thanks for his redeeming sacrifice and rejoice that on “the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures”!

Saturday April 19 - Thrive: Gather: Des Moines

Pray for the Gather event taking place in Des Moines, Iowa, Apr. 28-30. In this final meeting of 10 Gather events held across North America in 2024-2025, three Christian Reformed classes are connecting to bear witness to God’s work in their local contexts and to discern where God may be leading them into renewed ministry and mission.

Sunday April 20 - Resonate: Easter

Today let us give thanks that Jesus has overcome sin and death through the cross and his resurrection. Please pray for our denomination as we live into this truth a little more every day, and as we seek to step into God’s call to share the gospel and work toward the kingdom transformation that the Lord has brought to us.