

April 20, 2025

Zion Reformed
United Church of Christ

*To share the gospel of Christ
in such a way that we find God,
grow our faith,
discover our purpose
and make a difference.*

Order of Worship



GATHER AROUND THE EASTER CROSS

EASTER POEM

By Joyce Rupp

Sturdy, deep green tulip shoots.
How did they know
it was time to push up through the long-wintered soil?
How did they know
it was the moment to resurrect,
while thick layers of stubborn ice
still pressed the bleak ground flat?
But the tulips knew.
They came, rising strongly,
a day after the ice died.
There's a hope-filled place in me
that also knows when to rise,
that waits for the last layer of ice
to melt into obscurity.
It is urged by the strong sun
warming my wintered heart.
It is nudged by the Secret One,
calling, calling, calling:
"Arise, my love, and come."
My heart stirs like dormant tulips
and hope comes dancing forth.
Not unlike the Holy One
kissing the morning sun,
waving a final farewell
to a tomb emptied of its treasure.



EASTER PRAYER and ACCLAMATION

One: God of resurrection, you are waiting for us at the tomb of our despair. Break upon us with the brilliance of a new day. Color our grayscale lives with a joy no one can take. Paint the horizon of our hope with brilliance. Mark us indelibly, forever beloved.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

PROCESS TO THE SANCTUARY

GATHERING MUSIC AND BELLS

Easter Chorales from the Orgelbuchlein

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Fanfare for Easter Day

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, what do you need today?

All: To rejoice!

One: Then come, let us worship God,

**All: who broke the power of death,
who rolled the stone from the tomb,
who has risen from the grave!**

One: We worship in the name of God who created us,
Christ who rose from the dead,
and the Spirit he breathed upon his followers.

All: Amen!

*HYMN NCH 232

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

PRAYER OF HOPE *Watered Gardens*

By Joyce Rupp

One: God of little buds just now wearing green sleeves,
God of lilac limbs all full with signs of flowering,
God of fields plowed and black with turned-over earth,
God of screeching baby bird mouths widely awaiting food,
God of openness, of life and of resurrection,

All: *Come into this Easter season and bless me.*

One: Look around the tight, dead spaces of my heart
That still refuse to give you an entrance.
Bring your gentle but firm love.
Begin to lift the layers of resistance
That hang on tightly deep inside of me.

All: *Open, one by one, those places in my life*

One: Where I refuse to be overcome by surprise.

All: *Open, one by one, those parts of my heart*

One: Where I fight the entrance of real growth.

All: *Open, one by one, those aspects of my spirit*

One: Where my security struggles with the truth.

All: *Keep me open to the different and the strange;*

One: Help me to accept the unusual and also the ordinary;
Never allow me to tread on others' dreams
By shutting them out, closing them up,
By turning them off or pushing them away.
God of the Resurrection, God of the living,
Untomb and uncover all that needs to live in me.
Take me to people, events, and situations
And stretch me into much greater openness.

**All: *Open me. Open me. Open me.
For it is only then that I will grow and change.***

*For it is only then that I will be transformed.
For it is only then that I will know how it is
To be in the moment of rising from the dead.*

CHILDRENS ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, NRSV

Lector: Amber Nilson

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. for since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. but each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. for he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Shout Hallelujah to the Risen Lamb

WORD FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18, The Inclusive Bible

Lector: Amber Nilson

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple—the one Jesus loved—and told them, the Rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put Jesus!

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn't enter, but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground, and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus' head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they didn't understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus' body had lain. They asked her, why are you weeping? She answered them, because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don't know where they have put the body.

No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. He asked her, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking? She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away. Jesus said to her, Mary! She turned to him and said, Rabboni! —which means teacher .

Jesus then said, don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, 'I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!' Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. I have seen the Teacher! she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*HYMN NCH 234

Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Easter teaches us that generous love is at the heart of God's work. Joyfully we are able to give knowing that our gifts will help others to see the blessed miracle of God's creative joy.

OFFERTORY

The Trumpet Shall Sound

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God from who all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Divine Sustainer, receive these gifts that we gladly give. May they be used to revive and restore those in need. Amen.

*HYMN GG 236

The Strife is O'er

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

- One This is the joyful feast of the people of God. People will come from north, south, east, and west to sit at the table in the realm of God.
- All: Here in this place, the communion table is open to all people.**
- One: Gather around this resurrection table where all are welcomed and the good earth is affirmed. From her generosity, we bring these gifts of bread and wine.
- All: Witnesses to Hope, we participate in Christ's liberation.**
- One: This is Christ's table, we are invited to share in the feast of promise.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- One: God be with you.
- All: And also with you.**
- One: Lift up your hearts.
- All: We lift them to God.**
- One: Let us give thanks to God most high.
- All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
- One: Be still and know that I am God.
- All: We are still in your presence you are still with us.**
- One: In Christ you accompany us, embodied among us, sharing our birthing our living our dying
- All: sharing our dreams of hope and liberation, offering us new life and the shattering of the tomb.**
- One: In Christ you appear as the host at the ebbing and the flowing of our lives
- All: You beckon us to share your hospitality, your challenge of love.**

One: In Christ you sit as the guest at the table of the stranger
All: You bless us with your presence, your awakening of love.
One: In Christ you stand among us as host and guest at the heart of this community
All: You share with us your vulnerability, your unwrapping of love.
One: As hosts with Christ, we bless this bread. As guests with Christ, we pour this wine.
as welcomed strangers, united in Christ's life, death, and embodied liberation, we
hear the words of promise:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: This is my body given for you; take and eat to remember me.
This cup poured out: take and drink remember me.
In this action of justice-making, we recall broken minds and bodies and blood shed
through lust for power and nature's turn of hand.
**All: Restore and heal all that is wounded be present in the stillness of the waiting roll
back the stone of prejudice and fear release the signs of spring.**
One: Breaking of bread we gently break this bread of fragile life
All: Our breaking down becomes our breaking through.
One: As we eat this living bread and drink the new wine of resurrection, let us celebrate the
cosmic Christ, our liberator and sustainer
**All: with divine tenderness you remake us by transforming pain you heal us – your
passionate energy empowers us.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

**Generous God, the meal is over.
The tomb is empty, and the unfinished work of creation stretches before us.**

**Send us from this place, full of your grace and called by your Spirit to be the
Resurrected Body of Christ in the world.
May it be so! Amen!**

THE PRAYER JESUS TEACHES US

**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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
for thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

BLESSING

Now may God,
who is creating a new heaven and a new earth,
who is breaking the power of sin and death,
who is bringing us all to new life,
bless you and sustain you.
Today God has answered your need,
and now the Spirit sends you out
to answer the world's need. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus from "The Messiah."



Praying with One Another

Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Join us in prayer as we pray for all those in our communities that we have touched or that have touched us and those that simply crossed our paths. Let us also remember to pray for peace and safety around the world and to pray with and for our Zion siblings:

Holly Bell, Bruce Albright, Janis Albright, Naomi Brackett, Pat Brackett (Naomi's Sister-in-law), Linda Cantilena, Richard Cantilena, **Kim & Bill Cook**, Joy DeYoung (Claire-Marie's niece), Donna France, Michael Graff Jr. (son of Sue and Mike), Sue Graff, Beth Gross, Jim Hatfield, Lyn Hoffmaster (Claire-Marie's sister), **The Family of Buddy Horton (Pastor Scotts cousin)**, **The Family of Howard Kaylor (Service 5/17 1:00pm)**, Dee Krause, Jerri Livingston, Mary Lorfing, Darrin Miller, Bonnie Minoglio-Toms (friend of Barb & Charley Ware), Linda Pittman (friend of Barry Landis), Crystal Reed (Lori Schmidt's daughter-in-law), David Ridenour, Wells Ridenour, Staci Shafer, **Thelma Summers**, Margaret Wagner, **Barb Ware**, Angela Yamashita.

Worship Leaders

The lector this week is Amber Nilson.

Ushers for this week are Domenick Gerlando, Barb Hendershot, Matt McDonald, William Wantz.

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP & CALENDAR

The lector next week is Rich Owens.

Next week's ushers are William Brewer, Calvin Livingston, Gerald Saum, Jean Simmons.

Next weeks Children's Church leader is Kristen Joy.

- 4/20 Sunrise Service – Christ Reformed 6:00am
Sunday School 9:45am – No Children's Sunday School
Easter Cross Service 10:45am
Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30am
- 4/22 Staff Meeting 11:00am
Tuesday Evening Ministry 5:00-6:30pm
- 4/23 Potluck & Lenten Devotional 6:00pm
- 4/24 Properties Team Meeting 1:00pm
Executive Team Meeting 2:00pm
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 4/25 Dinner Theater Dress Rehearsal 5:00pm
- 4/26 Dinner Theater 5:00pm

Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 4/20 Eric Saum | 4/23 Krista Burgan |
| 4/21 LoriBeth Martin | 4/24 Kenlin Martin |
| 4/21 Michael Mooers | 4/26 Burnie Clutz |

Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Arthur Grove Class – A bible-based study and discussion group for adults, led by David Ridenour and Rae Smith. - Live and available via Zoom. **Meeting ID: 876 0291 7867 Password: Peace**

Youth & Young Adults - This class is for 6th Graders through 23-year-olds and will be held upstairs in the Youth Room.

Children's Sunday School – Pre-K through 5th grade – Teaching based on that week's scripture readings, led by Miss Kim.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT POTLUCK & DEVOTIONAL - A Potluck dinner followed by a Devotional.

GRADUATION - Do you have a student/grandchild graduating this year? Please send us some information such as Name, School/College, Special Interests, etc. by **April 30th**. Send this information to Megan Shroyer, Ms. Kim, or the church office. We are going to celebrate all the graduates during the **May 18th** at worship.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP - Please save July 6-10th for a mission trip. We will drive to New Bern, N.C. to help with hurricane recovery. We have a house with 58 beds reserved and will be working with a construction team. Youth and chaperones have first choice with a **March 31 registration deadline**. All additional adults will need to register by April 30th. The approximate cost for the trip is \$300 for lodging, food, and transportation on a church van. All will be expected to purchase their own meal when we eat out on our final day. Please consider joining us in this important opportunity to reach out in service and love to others. For questions or more information, please contact Rev. Scott Winnette at pastorwinnette@gmail.com

Outreach and Service Opportunities

Micah's Backpack will be collecting **Juice Boxes** during the month of **April**.

Tuesday Night Ministry is collecting **Cereal both family size and individual boxes** for the month of **April**. We are also in need of **empty Egg Cartons and Zip Lock Storage Bags in all sizes**.

Thank you for your help in these outreach ministries.



VBS-We need some help with Vacation Bible School(VBS). Our theme is Rocky Railway-"Jesus' power pulls us through". We have a TRAIN Station board setup in the Chapel. There are some trains that need some items on them for VBS. When the train leaves the station (board), please put your name and item on the list. All items need to be returned by June 1st. If you have any questions, please see Megan or Ms. Kim.

**Youth Group Kickoff – Thursday May 1, 2025
6:00pm - 8:00pm. All youth, 6-12th grade, are welcome to our Youth Group Kick-off Event. We have invited youth from other churches in our community to come and join us.
For more info contact Megan or Ms. Kim.**



Service Credits
CCLI Number: 6212519
April 20 Easter

Gathering music: Easter Chorales from the Orgelbuchlein. Composed by J. S. Bach. © 1940 by G. Schirmer. Performed by C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Prelude: Fanfare for Easter Day. Robert Lowrey (1874). Arr. By Jack H. Ossewaarde. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Hymns: Christ the Lord is Risen Today. NCH 232. Tune: Easter Hymn. Composed by Charles Westley. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain. NCH 234. Tune: St. Kevin. Composed by Arthur S. Sujllivan (1872). Words by John of Damascus (8th c). Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

The Strife is O'er. GG 236. Tune: Victory. Composed by Giovanni Peierluigi da Palestrina (1591). Latin words. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Source(s): Hymnary (hymnary.org).

Choir Anthem: Shout Hallelujah to the Risen Lamb. Composed by Victor C. Johnson. © 2015 by Lorenz Publishing Co.

Offertory: The Trumpet Shall Sound. Composed by Georg Frederik Handel. © 1984 by Lorenz Publishing Co. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.

Postlude: Hallelujah Chorus from "The Messiah." Composed by Georg Frederik Handel. © 1954 by Edward B. Marks Music Corp. Performed by Byron L. Stay (trumpeter) and C. M. Moblard (organist) of Zion Reformed UCC.