

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:00 a.m.

The Approach to God

PRELUDE

Elevation in E-flat

Hedwige Chrétien

WELCOME

VOTUM

CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Psalm 57 *(responsively)*

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.

**My heart, O God, is steadfast,
my heart is steadfast;
I will sing and make music.**

Awake, my soul!

Awake, harp and lyre!

I will awaken the dawn.

**I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples.**

For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.**

SALUTATION

*HYMN OF PREPARATION 521 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Tune: NETTLETON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you have made us for holy covenant with you. Your promises are strong and faithful.
Our hearts are human, and prone to wander. We confess that we need your forgiveness, and
for you to lead us away from sin
and temptation.

For the ways we have knowingly disobeyed your Word
--forgive us, God.

[Silence]

For the times when we have not chosen love, but instead anger, or judging, or selfishness--
forgive us, Jesus.

[Silence]

For the ways we resist you leading us to humility, to justice, or reconciliation--help us to listen and obey, Holy Spirit.

[Silence]

In your mercy, forgive us Lord, and make us new by the grace you have poured out for us, and make us a people of grace.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE adapted from I John 2:1-2, 12

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Word of God

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION 745 Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit
Tune: DWELL IN ME

GOSPEL LESSON: John 15:1-8 p. 109
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: I John 4:7-21 p. 241
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Abide in Me"

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

The Response to God

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Belhar Confession (*responsively*)

1. We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.
2. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe:

- that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another
- **that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;**
- that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

• that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:

...in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord;

that we work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens,

thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;

that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY Let Us Love One Another Mark Sirett
Let us love one another for love is from God.
Everyone who loves God is born of God and knows God.
One who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
God sent his Son so that we might live; God sent his Son so that we might be forgiven.
God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.
—1 John 4:7-12, adapted by Mark Sirett

*DOXOLOGY 965 Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.**

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 727 Christian Hearts in Love United
Alternate Tune: HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fugue in F Claude Balbastre

*You may stand.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Janelle Lopez-Koolbaas, preaching; Rev. Dr. Ryan Boes, Joyce Magee, liturgists; Joel Schoon-Tanis, children's time; Kamerkoor; Linda Strouf, Minister of Music.

Today

We welcome all who worship with us! We invite you sign in on the fellowship pads in the pew or you may follow this QR code to sign in. We would appreciate it if you took a moment to sign in you and your family members and let us know you were here. **If you are joining us as a guest today**, please follow this QR code, or head to trcholland.org/quickstart to let us know you were here.

The flowers at the chancel are given by Al and Jane Osman.

To read the full Belhar Confession (today's affirmation of faith) and scripture references, and its historical background: <https://www.rca.org/about/theology/creeds-and-confessions/the-belhar-confession/>

ASSISTING TODAY: Deacons/Ushers: Jeff Voskuil, Lucia Torres, Laura McMullen.

IF YOU DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and/or others Mary DeWitt and Chris Cook will be available to pray with you following today's worship service. Please make your way to the Place of Prayer located in the south hallway on the main level.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP: Our Children and Worship Program for children aged 4 through the 2nd grade continues today during the 10:00 service. Our Worship Center program takes place in Room 2. (Downstairs: Take the Northwest staircase down to the lower level. The room is the first door to your right.)

EDUCATION HOUR, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Preschool-First Grade	room 2	Second-Fifth Grade	room 1
6th-8th grades	room 11	Senior High	Youth Room

There will be no adult education classes next week, May 5 due the Congregational Meeting.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES, 11:15-12:15

“Christian-ly Thinking about Islam and Muslims: Perceptions and Misperceptions” led by John Hubers meets in the chapel.

EL ENCUENTRO (EN ESPAÑOL): Les invitamos a las 11:30 a.m. a reunirnos en la presencia del Señor, escuchar su Palabra y orar juntos. Favor de invitar a sus familiares y vecinos- ¡Todos son bienvenidos! Nos reuniremos en **Fellowship Hall**. (gimnasio). ¡Nos vemos!

*[Translation] **EL ENCUENTRO (SPANISH GATHERING)** We invite you to join us at 11:30 a.m. to spend time in the presence of God through his Word, and to pray together. Feel free to invite your family and friends-- everyone is welcome! We meet in the **Fellowship Hall**. See you! English translation via headset is available.*

The Week Ahead

Sunday

8:45 p.m. Kamerkoor
11:15 a.m. Education Hour
11:15 a.m. Carillon Choir
11:30 a.m. Spanish Worship Gathering
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday

1:00 p.m. Watercolor Class

Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday

6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study

8:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayers (zoom)

9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (zoom)

6:30 p.m. Book Discussion Group

Thursday

8:00 a.m. Sunrise Saints

Friday

6:30 a.m. High School Bible Study

Saturday

9:30 a.m. El Encuentro Music Rehearsal

Congregational News

Please remember in prayer those in the hospital and in care facilities.

Please remember to have someone notify the church office when you are in the hospital so you can receive spiritual care by the pastoral staff. Call 616-392-1459.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Hospice-Margaret Doorenbos, Tom Norman, Dennis Gebben. Out of Town-Lucille Schroeder, LaVerne Lievens, Ellen Rieck; Home-Bill Charlton, Barb Mummert; Quincy Place-Elle Kuiper. Missionaries-Linn G. (Asia), Lubna Y. (Asia).

BLOOD DRIVE: Third Reformed Church will host a blood drive on Monday, May 6, from noon to 5:45 p.m. To sign up to give blood please visit redcross.org and search for our drive.

PLEASE NOTE: LIFT has ended for the spring semester. Mark your calendars for summer LIFT which will run Wednesdays June 26-July 31 (no meeting on July 3). Stay tuned for details and volunteer opportunities!

CROP HUNGER WALK: Walking between 1:00 and 3:00 in the Holland/Zeeland Walk on May 19 helps to feed Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and fund Community Action House's food club. CROP Walk also supports Church World Service food distribution in draught-stricken Kenya and Gateway Mission's meals program for the homeless in Holland. Show your support by registering online at: hollandhunger.org and come learn more about our locally supported agencies on May 19 in Centennial Park.

The Racial Equity Group of the Justice and Equity Team (J.E.T.) is sponsoring a bus trip to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit on May 17. We will depart from Third Reformed Church at 8:00 a.m. and return at approximately 5:30 p.m. Museum admission for seniors (62+) is \$11 and adults are \$14. We will have lunch together at a nearby Detroit restaurant. We will limit the passengers to 24 with TRC members and guests given preference. Other churches will be invited if space is available. Free guided tours will be provided as well as independent exploration. Sign up with Laura Baer or Dean Miedema in the Gathering Place after the service on April 21 and 28, or call Dean Miedema at 616-566-4663 until April 28.

Participants should be prepared to pay Dean Miedema by cash or check since all tickets are pre-paid.

Copies of a "Breaking Barriers" article can be found on the welcome desk. The subject is "30 Indicators of an Anti-ableist, Fully Accessible Church."

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: May 5 is our annual congregational meeting. Again this year it will be held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. To facilitate the gathering of all our people, there will be only one service that day, with no separate service for El Encuentro. We will enjoy a meal together at the meeting, and will conclude with the Lord's Supper. Maria Urrea will be making yummy breakfast casseroles, but we will need your help completing the meal. Sign up at the link in this week's edition of Third Church News or call the church office to provide pastries, muffins, fruit, juice and to help with serving and clean up. At the meeting we will get a financial update, receive a state of the church report, and approve a slate of new elders and deacons. A Zoom link will be available for the congregational meeting, however it will be a non-interactive link, meaning Zoom participants will be able to observe but not vote or comment during the congregational meeting. An absentee ballot will be available in the office if you are unable to make the meeting. Nominees for Consistory are: **Deacon:** Mark Genzink; **Care Elder:** Kathy Miedema, Lynne Hubers; **Governing Elder:** Matt DeJongh, John Hoekstra, Jody Vanderwel, Yasser Palacios-Perez.