

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024
8:40 & 11:00 AM

God Calls Us to Worship

*Please prepare your heart and mind for worship
with a time of prayer and meditation.*

The Prelude:

“Awake the Trumpet’s Lofty Sound” G.F. Handel, arr. David Marlatt
“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” arr. Robert A. Hobby
“Thine Is the Glory” G.F. Handel, arr. Robert A. Hobby

The Chiming of the Hour

The Christ Candle Returns

To symbolize the death of Jesus, the Christ candle was removed from the sanctuary during our Maundy Thursday service. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, to symbolize Christ’s time in the grave, the candle remained absent from the front of the church. This morning, to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection, the candle is restored. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it!” John 1:5

We Respond with Praise

*The Opening Hymn Concerto: Lift Up Your Hearts 182:1-4

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” arr. Robert Lehman
Please rise at the director’s cue
Brass Introduction
Verse 1: All in harmony
Verse 2: All in harmony
Verse 3: All in unison
Brass Interlude
Verse 4: All in harmony

*Latecomers will be seated during the singing of the hymn.

*The Greeting – concluded with:

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Welcome

Easter: Past, Present and Future

The Resurrection in the Old Testament

“ . . . For you, Lord, have delivered me from death. . . ”

The Reading: Psalm 116

The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 184
“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing”

The Resurrection Morning

“ . . . Why do you look for the living among the dead? ”

The Reading: Luke 24:1-8

*The Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 204
“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna”

The Resurrection to Come

“ . . . these in white robes—who are they? ”

The Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

The Anthem:

“Psalm of Redemption” Robert Elmore
Sing hallelujah, praise the Lord! Sing with a cheerful voice; exalt our God with one accord, and in his name rejoice. Ne’er cease to sing, thou ransomed host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; until in realms of endless light your praises shall unite.

There we to all eternity shall join the angelic lays, and sing in perfect harmony to God our Savior’s praise; he hath redeemed us by his blood, and made us kings and priests to God; for us, for us, the Lamb was slain; praise ye the Lord! Amen.

The Children’s Message

The Pastoral Prayer

The Anthem:

“A Hymn of Resurrection” Gwyneth Walker
I know that my Redeemer lives, and on the earth again shall stand. I know eternal life he gives, with grace and healing in his hand.

I know his promise of rebirth, the Word he speaks can never die: though death shall take my body from the earth, yet I shall see him by and by.

I know my pathway he prepares for where he is, there I shall be. Abiding faith, for me he cares, and he at last will come for me!

I know, I know eternal life he gives. I know, I know the grace and healing in his hand. I know, I know that my Redeemer lives! For on the earth, for here on earth he has come again! My Savior lives again!

Jessie B. Pounds, G. Walker, alt.
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The Offering

The Offertory:
“This Joyful Eastertide”

arr. Sondra K Tucker

*The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him, above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

God Speaks to Us

The Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 (p.1789)

The Sermon: **“DEATH HAS BEEN SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY”**

We Respond Joy

*The Hymn of Response: Lift Up Your Hearts 205:1,3,4,5

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”
Verse 1: All in harmony
Verse 3: All Men and Boys; All sing Refrain
Verse 4: All Women and Girls; All sing Refrain
Verse 5: All in harmony

*The Benediction

*The People’s Response: **Amen.**

*The Choral Response

*The Silent Prayer and Carillon Bells

*The Postlude:

“Toccata, from *Symphony No. 5*”

Charles Marie Widor

Rev. Peter Jonker – minister
Erin Alley – liturgist
Dr. Larry Visser – organist
Chancel Choir, Dr. Rob Hobgood – director
Sho Dembinski, Greg Wells – trumpet
Jonathah Bouwman – french horn
Pete Tigchelaar – trombone
Mark Lago - tuba
Perrin Rynders – timpani & percussion
Rene Baatenburg – Christ Candle Bearer (8:40 & 11:00)
Molly Versluis & Jake Versluis – Cross & Bible Bearers (8:40)
Dee DeKryger and Joyce Jeltema – Cross & Bible Bearers (11:00)

Guest musicians who join our LaGrave instrumentalists this morning include **Greg Wells** and **Mark Lago**, both band instructors at Northview Public School, and **Sho Dembinski**, band instructor at East Kentwood High School, a native of Wixom, Michigan and a graduate of Michigan State University. May God bless their ministry through music this Easter morning.

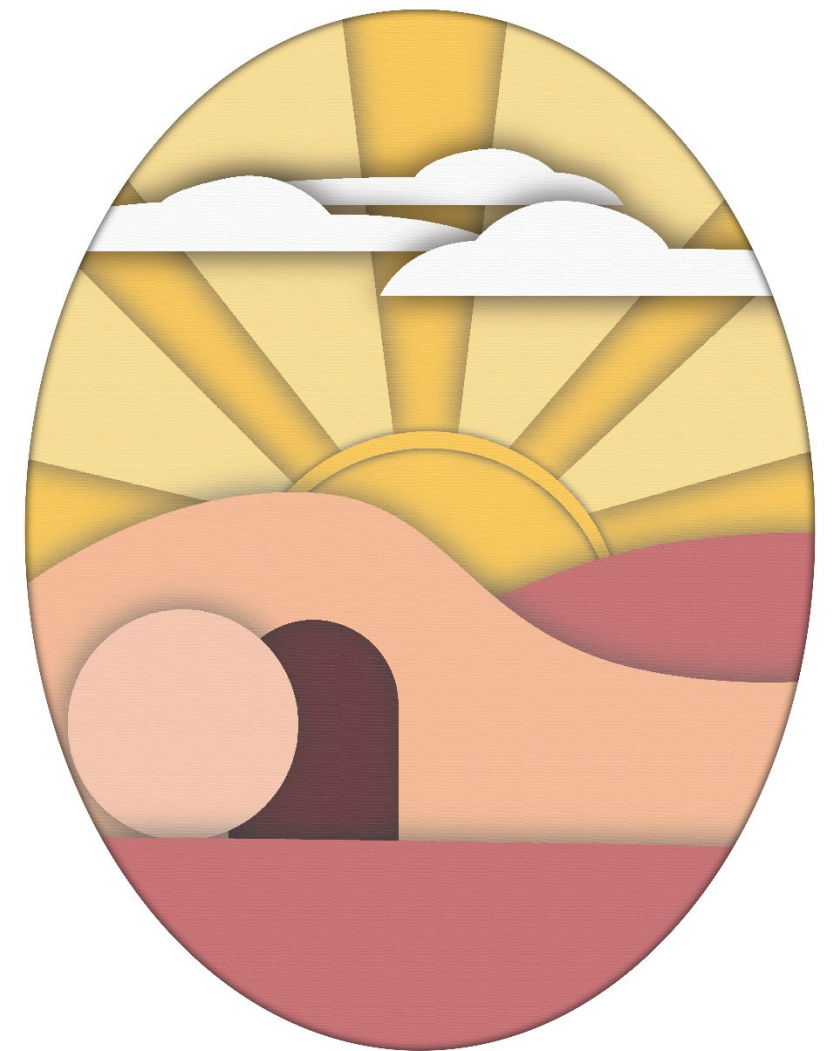
Music at LaGrave

Both anthems this morning are large-scale works for choir, organ, brass and timpani. American composer Gwyneth Walker (b.1947) is a former Oberlin College faculty member with over 400 commissioned pieces to her credit. *A Hymn of Resurrection* cites Job 19:25 and provides assurance of resurrection hope. A driving rhythm pervades the entire piece. Robert Elmore (1913-1985) combined church music with a theatrical style, creating large, dramatic works. The choir sings an excerpt from the conclusion of the extended work *Psalm of Redemption*, a song of praise to the Redeemer and Lamb, ending with the words from Revelation 5:9-10.

The liturgical season of Easter is the fifty days from Easter to Pentecost. The white, gold, and crystals used in the paraments and banners reflect the glory of the resurrection. Jesus Christ has won the victory over sin and death! Alleluia!

The March special offering is for Mel Trotter Ministries. Mel Trotter Ministries provides shelter for individuals and families with services including: meals, emergency shelter, transitional housing assistance, case management.

There will not be a service this evening.



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LaGrave Avenue
Christian Reformed Church