

A Service for In-Home Worship on Resurrection Sunday, April 12

First Reformed Church of South Holland

Worship Service Element	Explanation
<p style="text-align: center;">Prepare</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Welcome to worship on this Resurrection Morning! As you prepare to celebrate Christ's victory over death together with your First Church family this morning, please begin worship with this Prelude & Welcome Video at 9:25am.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>As you listen, ponder the image of the Easter morning sun rising from Thursday, Friday, and Saturday's darkness to greet this joyful morn. Imagine the women running from the empty tomb to tell the other disciples what they have heard and seen. Fix your mind's attention and heart's affection on Jesus – our risen and reigning King!</i></p>	<p><i>While every Sunday is a "mini Easter" that celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead, our worship on Easter morning is rightfully one of our most festive services of the church year.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">God Calls Us To Worship</p> <p>Leader: This is the good news - the grave is empty; Christ is risen! People: Alleluia! Leader: This is the good news - the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out! People: Alleluia! Leader: This is the good news - once we were not a people, now we are God's people! People: Alleluia! Leader: This is the good news - Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace that we now share with each other! People: Alleluia! Leader: He is risen! People: He is risen indeed! Leader: He is risen! People: He is risen indeed! Leader: He is risen! People: He is risen indeed!</p>	<p><i>There is no greater invitation for us to worship than for us to be reminded that our God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – have together defeated sin, death, and hell through Jesus! This same Father God now invites us to be His children and Christ's brothers and sisters – a family melded and welded together by the Holy Spirit.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖ TRY SOMETHING NEW: <i>This morning, as we proclaim together three times that "He is risen indeed!," consider texting that Easter morning proclamation to a few people in your contacts list.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Greeting One Another & The Passing of The Peace</p>	<p><i>As we have proclaimed Christ's triumphal resurrection to one another, we now pass Christ's peace to one another.</i></p>

“Christ The Lord Is Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King. Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, He all doth save. Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

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!

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!

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
He Who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, we are risen! Set your hearts on things above:
there in all the Father's glory lives and reigns our King of love;
hear the word of peace He brings us, see His wounded hands and side;
now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory!
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!

We have waited an entire year since we have sung these hymns together. Following the historic church's practice, we did not sing the word "alleluia" together in our congregational singing during the season of Lent. It is fitting, then, that our first two hymns are anchored in this expression of rejoicing (which simply means, "praise the Lord")!

Our music this morning is led by many of our First Church musicians who recorded their parts in their homes and emailed them to the church to be compiled. We hope this morning's music does not cause you to merely sit back and listen, but rouses your heart (and voice!) to festive and heart-felt praise!

Those leading you this morning include:

*ORGAN: Joanne Hoeksema
BRASS: John DeVries, Jonathan, Matthew, & Nancy Rietveld
VOCALS: Anthony Bolkema, Rachel Wooley, Brad & Gail Housman
PERCUSSION: John DeVries*

❖ TRY SOMETHING NEW:

Together in your home, come up with an action or a gesture you can do every time you sing the word "alleluia," such as raising your hands toward heaven, waving your hands in praise, or sharing a full smile.

If you are musical and would like to

"Christ Is Risen"

Let no one caught in sin remain inside the lie of inward shame,
but fix our eyes upon the cross and run to Him who showed great love
and bled for us, freely You've bled for us.

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death;
Come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave!
Christ is risen from the dead; we are one with Him again!
Come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave!**

Beneath the weight of all our sin You bowed to none but heaven's will.
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown, no burden great can hold You down;
in strength You reign. Forever let Your church proclaim:

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death;
Come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave!
Christ is risen from the dead; we are one with Him again!
Come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave!**

*O, death, where is your sting?
O, hell, where is your victory?
O, church, come stand in the light.
Our God is not dead; He's alive He's alive!*

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death;
Come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave!
Christ is risen from the dead; we are one with Him again!
Come awake, come awake, come and rise up from the grave!**

play along with us, chord charts are attached to the Worship Resources email or can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Adoration

Please pray this prayer together and aloud in your home.

Living God, we worship You today with joy in our hearts and thanksgivings on our lips. When the powers of evil had done their worst, crucifying Your Son, and burying Him in death, You raised him to life again:

This is the part of our service where we would typically offer our prayers of confession. On this Resurrection Sunday, rather than focusing on our sin, this Trinitarian prayer helps us focus on the new life that is ours

an act of power giving hope to the whole world.

Lord Jesus, we rejoice that death could not keep You in its grip; that You were raised to life, alive for ever and ever. You greeted Your friends and now You stand among us in Your risen power.

Spirit of God, You are always giving new birth to children of God and giving resurrection life to the people of God.

Hear us now as we spend a few moments in silent prayer, thanking You for the ways You are raising up Christ's new life within us.

Spend a few moments offering silent prayers of thanksgiving and adoration.

Remodel us in the image of Jesus, fill us with His love and enable us with His risen power, that we might be faithful to His way and used by You in the redeeming of Your world.

We pray this all in the name of our risen and reigning King Jesus, amen.

"A Very Happy Easter"

[*Click here to begin the "A Very Happy Easter" Video.*](#)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-15

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

through Christ.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow that He has not only dealt with our sin, but has raised us to new life and is constantly sanctifying us by the power of the Holy Spirit!

This video helps us capture and relive some of the emotions experienced by those first witnesses of Christ's resurrection. Join us as we journey into the wonder of the greatest rescue story ever told.

❖ TRY SOMETHING NEW:

The emotions of Easter are not just for our children. As this story is read, please participate with us fully by following the invitations in the video.

The Bible is the place where God speaks most clearly most often. Please read this section of God's Story aloud in your homes, listening closely for God's voice.

<p>The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”</p> <p>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”</p> <p>While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.”</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Sermon <i>“Our Triumphant King”</i> Pastors Corey Buchanan & Jim Oord</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click here to begin the Sermon Video.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Congregational Prayer</p> <p>-Praise God for the victory of Jesus. He is a God of new life, restoration, peace, new chances, and fresh starts. Jesus has done everything we need. God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p>-Praise God for making us his resurrection people, connected even though we are far apart. Pray that the Risen Christ would use us as agents of new life in our families, our neighborhoods, and our world. God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p>-Pray for those who find themselves suddenly unemployed, underemployed, or financially stretched due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for hope, help, and new opportunities. God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p>-Pray for teachers who are trying to find effective ways to reach and help their students. Pray for students who are trying to learn and cope with this disorienting situation. God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p>-Pray for those who lead on local, state, national, and global levels. Pray for wisdom, compassion, and servants' hearts as they make decisions.</p>	<p><i>This morning we will unite our prayers around these themes and prompts.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖ TRY SOMETHING NEW! <i>In Hosea 6:1-3, the prophet tells us that God is a God of resurrection. This passage includes the prophecy that "on the third day, he will restore us," a hint about Jesus' Resurrection on the third day and how it is good news for us. As you pray through the listed prayer requests, end each prayer by saying "God of resurrection, refresh us with new life," to which everyone else in the house can respond "Restore us to live in Your presence." This adapts the words of Hosea 6 and orients our prayer</i></p>

<p>....God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p>-Pray for this creation and our call to care for it. Pray for wisdom and boldness so that we can be good caretakers and forces for life, not death, in the world that God has entrusted to us.</p> <p>....God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p>-Pray for change and growth in your life and the lives of others. Pray for the Spirit's help to turn away from the dead-end path of sin and toward the path of obedience and new life.</p> <p>....God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p>-Pray for those who struggle with mental illness, with depression, with anxiety, with addiction. Pray for good care from medical professionals and understanding friendship from those around them, to enable them to see hope for new life.</p> <p>....God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p>-Pray for anyone and anything that the Holy Spirit puts on your heart at this time.</p> <p>....God of Resurrection, refresh us with new life. Restore us to live in Your presence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>When you have concluded your time of prayer, click here for the Lord's Prayer Video.</i></p>	<p><i>toward our Easter Hope.</i></p> <p><i>For more items to pray about this morning, please call our prayer line at (708) 333-8150.</i></p> <p><i>When you have concluded your prayers, please click in the left-hand column below to play the Lord's Prayer video.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Offering of Our Tithes</p> <p>To give to God's ministry through First Reformed Church online, click here. Alternatively, take a few moments to fill out your offering envelope and mail it to the church at 15924 South Park Ave., South Holland, IL 60473.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>When you have concluded your offering, please sing to Doxology together in your homes.</i></p>	<p><i>What can we possibly give to the One Who gave it all? How do we adequately respond to such a lavish gift? On this Resurrection morning, offer your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the service of our loving God.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">"Doxology"</p> <p>Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him, all creatures, here below, praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen.</p>	<p><i>The Bible promises us that one day "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:10-11). Until that day, however, it is our joyful duty to be among those who offer God this praise!</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Over Our Gifts</p> <p>Let us pray:</p> <p>Jesus, You met Thomas' doubting with kindness. You met Mary Magdalene's fear with tenderness. You met the Emmaus disciples' confusion with truth. Today, You met us in our worship with new life. You bless us so richly in our need. And so in gratitude we offer ourselves to You. Take our gifts, our time, our talents, and use them to continue to bring new life to a world full of death. Send us out in Your triumph and grace. Amen.</p>	<p><i>Our God is gracious to take our gifts – meager and feeble though they may be – and use them (and us) in amazing ways for His glory!</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Benediction & Charge</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click here to begin the Benediction Video.</p>	<p><i>During this pandemic of fear, worry, and confusion, our world is in desperate need of the Story we have celebrated this morning. As you go out into the world singing your chorus of resurrection “hallelujahs,” go knowing you carry the blessing of Almighty God – Father, Son, and Spirit, to accomplish this task!</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">“Hallelujah Chorus”</p>	<p><i>It is generally accepted that the traditional practice of standing during the singing of the “Hallelujah Chorus” dates back to 1743 when King George II stood for the chorus out of reverence during the London premier of Handel’s Messiah. It is fitting for us to stand in honor of the Recipient of these hallelujahs.</i></p>