

Willowdale

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Welcome to Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

April 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

*In worship, God speaks to us through his Word,
and we respond with praise and prayer.*

About the service:

Worship spaces: In the church Sanctuary and on ZOOM

Worship minister and preacher: Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer Heyink

Elder of service: Beatrice Vandervelde

Reader & Song Leader: John Meiboom

Worship musician: Hye-jin Im (piano)

Simultaneous Translation: Sylvie Charliekaram

Sound/Zoom/Slides operators: Nancy Fernhout, Nastaran, Elisa P.

Zoom host: Peter Grauds

Slides prepared by: Leanne Grauds

Greeter: Cici Lyu

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

After the service:

After the service, please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to meet with Pastor Greg, please send an email to pastorgreg@willowdalecrc.com or call: 289-925-4390.

Reflection

"My time as a campus minister taught me that one of the best tools we have to deal with people's spiritual doubts is patience. I met many young adults who had doubts and tough questions about their Christian faith. My approach was to let them voice those doubts and wrestle with those questions rather than marching in to dispel them with quick answers and proof texts. Only when they were ready to hear them did I offer them the variety of answers Christian thinkers have given to some of their struggles in the past.... If I truly love them, I will be patient with their doubts, their questions, their struggles, rather than imposing some artificial timeline on their resolution. I have to trust—exercise my faith—in the Holy Spirit's work and timing."

— taken from Shiao Chong's April Banner editorial,
Doubt and Patience

Prelude

***Welcome and introduction** — Beatrice Vandervelde

***Greeting and call to worship** — Colossians 1:15-20 (GNT)
— Elder Beatrice Vandervelde

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, grace to you and peace from God our Father.

All: And also with you.

Leader: God rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of his dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.
Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God.

All: He is the first-born Son, superior to all created things.

Leader: For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities.

All: God created the whole universe through him and for him.

Leader: Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place.

- All: He is the head of his body, the church; he is the source of the body's life.
- Leader: He is the first-born Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things.
- All: For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God.
- Leader: Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself.
- All: God made peace through his Son's death on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven.
- Leader: Let us worship our God.
Let us pray.

***Prayer of adoration** — Beatrice Vandervelde

***Song of praise** — LUYH 179 — *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

1. 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.
2. Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Death at last has met defeat.
See the ancient powers of evil
in confusion and retreat.
Once he died and once was buried;
now he lives forevermore—
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
whom we worship and adore.

3. Christ is risen, Christ the firstfruits
of the holy harvest yield,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield.
Then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine
from the furrows of the grave.
4. Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
alleluia! to the Saviour,
who has won the victory;
alleluia! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
alleluia, alleluia!
to the triune Majesty.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth, 1862, alt., P.D.

Children's story — Sarah M., Sunday School children

Prayer for the children (Concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

Lord's prayer (in English and Farsi)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

ای پدر ما که در آسمانی، نام تو مقدس باد، ملکوت تو بیاید، اراده تو چنانکه در آسمان است بر زمین نیز کرده شود. نان کفاف ما را امروز به ما بده و قرضهای ما را ببخش چنانکه ما نیز قرضداران خود را میبخشیم و ما را در آزمایش میاور بلکه از شریر ما را رهایی ده زیرا ملکوت و قوت و جلال تا ابدالابد از آن توست. آمین

***Song of praise** — LUYH 600 — *Jesus Christ Is with Us*

1. Jesus Christ is with us, Jesus Christ is with us,
Jesus Christ is with us; he is here.
Jesus Christ is with us, Jesus Christ is with us,
Jesus Christ is with us; he is here.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, he is here.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, he is here.
2. We will see him on his throne (3x), on his throne. Repeat
Hallelujah (3x), on his throne. *Repeat*
3. We'll bring praises to him (3x), on his throne. *Repeat*
Hallelujah (3x), on his throne. *Repeat*
4. There'll be joy evermore (3x), with the Lord. *Repeat*
Hallelujah (3x), with the Lord. *Repeat*
5. For his love makes us one (3x), with the Lord. *Repeat*
Hallelujah (3x), with the Lord. *Repeat*

English tr. Emily R. Brink, © 2006 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Sunday School Dismissal

All children ages 4-12 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts and games.

Call to confession — Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17, 23-24, 4:2, 5-6 (GNT)

[Paul's letter to God's people in Colossae]

3 You have been raised to life with Christ, so set your hearts on the things that are in heaven, where Christ sits on his throne at the right side of God. ² Keep your minds fixed on things there, not on things here on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ Your real life is Christ and when he appears, then you too will appear with him and share his glory!
¹² You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. ¹⁴ And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity.

¹⁵The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. ¹⁷Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father.

²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people. ²⁴Remember that the Lord will give you as a reward what he has kept for his people. For Christ is the real Master you serve.

4 ²Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.

⁵Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers, making good use of every opportunity you have. ⁶Your speech should always be pleasant and interesting, and you should know how to give the right answer to everyone.

***Song of confession** — LUYH 15 — *The First Place*

1. Jesus, the perfect picture of the unseen God.
Maker of things we cannot comprehend.
Wisdom, the earth displays your strength and beauty.
Sovereign, yes, every throne knows you are God.

Refrain

Every inch of this universe belongs to you, O Christ.
For through you and for you it was made.
Your creation endures by the order of your hand.
So you must have in all things the first place.

2. Victor, over sin and death you triumphed.
Firstborn, you've shown us life beyond the grave.
Bridegroom, we long for you in expectation.
Jesus, your church rejoices to proclaim.

Refrain

Words: Matthew Westerholm © 1999 Matthew Westerholm

Prayer of confession & thanksgiving — Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer Heyink

Assurance of forgiveness — Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer Heyink

***Song of assurance** — LUYH 775 — *Across the Lands*

1. You're the Word of God the Father
from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of your voice.
Let the skies declare your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice.

Refrain

You're the author of creation,
you're the Lord of everyone,
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.

2. Yet you left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you calmed the sea;
yet how silently you suffered,
that the guilty may go free.

Refrain

3. With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven,
leading captives in your way.
Now you stand before the Father,
interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home.

Refrain

Words: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend © 2002 Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. worldwide at
EMICMGPublishing.com except Europe which is admin. by Kingswaysongs

Prayer of illumination — Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer Heyink

Scripture reading — John 20:19-31 (NIV)

— Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer Heyink

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon — *God Meets Us* — Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer Heyink

***Song of response** — LUYH 529 — *Gather Us In*

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Words and Music (GATHER US IN 10.9.10.10 D): Marty Haugen © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

Offering Plate

1st Offering, Church Ministries, by cheque to the church or by online banking at any one of the 5 big banks, DUCA and Tangerine.

2nd Offering, Lifewater Canada, by cheque to the church.

You may drop your offering on the plate as you exit the Sanctuary after the service.

Prayers of God's People — Beatrice Vandervelde

*Celebration of Lord's supper — Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer Heyink

Apostles' Creed — in English and Farsi

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

اعتقادنامه مسیحی

من ایمان دارم به خدای پدر قادر مطلق، خالق آسمان و زمین، و به پسر یگانه او خداوند ما عیسی مسیح که به واسطه روح القدس در رحم قرار گرفت و از مریم باکره متولد شد و در حکومت پنطیوس پیلاطس الم کشید و مصلوب شده بمرد و مدفون گردید، و به عالم ارواح نزول کرد و در روز سوم از مردگان برخاست، به آسمان صعود نموده و به دست راست خدای پدر قادر مطلق نشسته است و از آنجا خواهد آمد و زندگان و مردگان را داوری نماید و من ایمان دارم به روح القدس و به کلیسای مقدس جامع و به شرکت مقدسین و به آمرزش گناهان و به قیامت ابدان و به حیات جاودان.

*You are invited to come forward to receive the elements.
Bread wrapped in plastic is gluten free.*

Communion song — LUYH 844 — *Lift Up Your Hearts unto the Lord*

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,
his resurrection sets us free.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
his resurrection sets us free.
4. Therefore we celebrate the feast . . .
5. Sing alleluia to the Lord . . .

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974 Linda Stassen

***Benediction** — Rev. Brenda Kronemeijer Heyink

***Doxology** — LUYH 183 — *Alleluia*

1. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Christ the Lord is risen indeed.
2. Alleluia, alleluia. (3x)
Christ, the firstfruits from the grave.
3. Alleluia, alleluia. (3x)
Christ has given us new life.
4. Alleluia, alleluia. (3x)
Glory, love, and praise to God.

Words: traditional

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for **Cal Seerveld's daughter Anya**, as she continues the long journey of treatment for cancer.

Please pray for our **1st offering** for our **church ministries and expenses**, faithful giving is a blessing to our whole church family.

Please pray for our **2nd offering**, Lifewater Canada. Lifewater Canada was founded in 1995 by Jim Gehrels, Glenn Stronks, and several other volunteers who were convinced that being Christian is far more than just going to church on Sunday. When people ask: *"Why did you provide our village with the equipment and training we needed to get safe water?"*, we say it is because we are inspired by Jesus' dedication to serving others. In our experience, the compassion that Canadians feel for those walking miles to draw water from a stagnant swamp reflects the same compassion Jesus showed for the poor and oppressed. Our desire is to provide people with a lifetime of adequate quantities of safe water, thanks to donors who come from many walks of life and many faiths. Visit: www.lifewater.ca to learn more.

Food and Faith Conversation:

If you are between your mid-teens and early twenties, you are invited to join Pastor Greg for lunch after church. We will begin a series on faith formation and conversation together on April 21. This will take place after church for approximately one hour. The series will run for 8 weeks with some intermittent breaks. Lunch will be provided.

Intercultural Gathering:

Dear WCRC Congregation, We are excited to remind you that our next Intercultural learning and fellowship event and potluck will be held on Sunday, April 28 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. At this session, we will continue to focus on four other provinces from Iran (Isfahan, Fars, Kerman and Yazd).

Kouroush M. has prepared the presentation slides and will present them in English. He will also collaborate with our next cultural group to prepare for our gathering on Sunday, Jun 23rd.

We hope you can join us and bring a cultural dish or dessert to share!

Sunday School Request:

The Sunday School Team is enjoying our time with the children in the church! And we are growing, which is a wonderful blessing. Currently, we have 2 teachers in the classroom each week and we are in need of a third pair of hands to help with the younger ones. We welcome any teenagers who would like to become involved to sign up for a few Sundays between now and mid-June.

Please approach us on any Sunday or you can email us as well!

Thank you!

Anita Kuipers - anitakuipers@rogers.com

Betty Carter - bettycarter316@gmail.com

Part-Time Bookkeeper:

Willowdale Christian Reformed Church (www.willowdalecrc.com) is looking for someone to fill the role of Bookkeeper on a part-time basis. The Bookkeeper plays an important role in ensuring regular invoice entry to support the timely payment of bills and recording in the accounting system (QuickBooks online) and supporting the Treasurer. Duties include entry of all regular utility bills, supplier invoices, visiting minister entries and other bookkeeping items including expense reimbursements / reconciliation. Additional duties may include HST filings, second collection disbursements, etc.

This is a part-time role for 2 – 3 hours per week and will report to the Treasurer. This role offers the flexibility to work remotely or in-office, but is required to work on-site at least twice per month to coordinate necessary paperwork, cheques, etc. Pay range is \$25 - \$30 per hour but will depend on experience level.

Candidates are expected to have bookkeeping experience ideally within a non-profit / charity or church setting. If interested please contact Mark VanHelden, Treasurer, at 647-808-8264 or treasurer@willowdalecrc.com

Birthdays:

April 14 – Cathy D. P.

April 18 – Bobby V.d.B.

ZOOM Host Schedule:

April 21 – Asal
April 28 – Asal

Greeters Schedule:

April 21 – Gerard
April 28 – Ardi

Coffee & Tea Serving Schedule:

April 14 - Ashkan, WilmaJoy, Suzanne
April 21 - Lydia, Weria, Maryam, Nelly
April 28 - Ashkan, Kate & Joseph

WCS Fundraising Dinner:

Please join the Willowdale Christian School Annual Fundraising dinner on April 26, 2024 with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. The location is the Bayview Golf and country Club (25 Fairway Heights Dr, Thornhill). Hope you can come and have a great evening with us.

To book a seat by April 12th, please use the link below:

<https://forms.gle/tyvD1ZAit7cto4SB6>

Housing Request:

My name is Jill Aalders, I am a 21 year old female student from Vancouver Island in BC where I am a member of Christ Community Christian Reformed Church. I have transferred to Trent University this past school year to study Forensic Chemistry and have just gotten a summer job at the Center of Forensic Sciences in Toronto. I am looking for somewhere to stay for the summer months of May through August. I am respectful, clean and would love to help around a house or pay for a room/place to stay during this time. Please let me know at 250-588-1752 or jillaalders@shaw.ca. Thank you!

Sermon notes

Willowdale Christian Reformed Church

We are on The Bridge App! Visit the **Apple Store** or **Google Play** on your mobile device and search for THE BRIDGE APP to download it. Please note that information shared on the app for Willowdale CRC are visible only to verified Willowdale CRC users only. **Enjoy the App!**

Address: 70 Hilda Avenue, Willowdale, ON, M2M 1V5

Phone: 416-221-7829, Email: office@willowdalecrc.com

Website: www.willowdalecrc.com

Bulletin announcements: office@willowdalecrc.com

Items for the Willowdale Weekly are due on Thursdays at noon.

Pastor Greg Sinclair: pastorgreg@willowdalecrc.com

Elders: consistory@willowdalecrc.com

Deacons: deacons@willowdalecrc.com

Song and service credits

Scripture reading taken from the Holy Bible, Today's New International Version TNIV™. Copyright 2001, 2005 by International Bible Society®. All rights reserved worldwide.

All songs printed with permission of CCLI #742790. Portions of this

service are taken by permission from The Worship Sourcebook © 2004, CRC Publications.

LUYH (*Lift Up Your Hearts*) is a new volume of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs produced by the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Reformed Church in America

April 14, 2024