

OLD NORTH CHURCH

DIVINE WORSHIP

EASTER IV

APRIL 21, 2024

9:30 A.M.

Today we welcome Rev. Elaine Burkert back into the pulpit.

ORGAN PRELUDE

“To God be the Glory”
“Andante from Sixth Symphony”

arr. Paul Mickelson
Peter Tchaikovsky

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott Benell

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Like a gentle rain,

ALL: God’s love refreshes our lives.

LEADER: Like the springtime song of the birds,

ALL: God’s grace cheers our souls.

LEADER: Like the delicate beauty of daffodils,

ALL: God’s creation delights our eyes.

LEADER: Like the lengthening of days,

ALL: God’s presence brings light where there is darkness or worry

LEADER: Springtime announces itself,

ALL: And all creation shouts with joy.

LEADER: We are touched by messages from our loving Creator.

ALL: And we join creation in singing praise.

*HYMN #362

“Morning Has Broken”

E. Farjeon / Gaelic melody

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Seated)

LEADER: Loving Creator, Source of Beauty, how you must tremble to see the scars on your earth, the garbage in your waters and shores, the thick brown haze in your skies. We have not adequately protected our resources for future generations. As consumers we have accepted disposable and overpackaged goods and thrown away what could be repurposed. We fail to recognize that what harms or destroys one part of your ecosystem damages or kills another.

ALL: Confession is our first step, Creator God. Please forgive us. Lead us to greater awareness as caretakers of this planet we call home. Your presence is all around us, calling us to bold action with each sign and sound of ecosystems in distress. Empower us to become advocates of your creation as a sign of our gratitude for all that you’ve entrusted to us. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

(sung)

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Psalms 118

LEADER: Listen to these words of comfort and absolution from the Psalmist.

“The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

Be of good cheer, the Lord has forgiven his people.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI #805

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end; Amen, Amen.

*SALUTATION AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

LEADER: Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

*HYMN #353

“For the Beauty of the Earth” Vs.1-4

A TIME FOR OUR YOUTH

Children proceed to Sunday School following the message.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:29-31

SERMON

“The Most Challenging of All”

Rev. Elaine Burkert

*STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION

We believe in the Great Commandment to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, with all our mind, with all our strength. We also believe in the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. There is no other commandment greater than these.

We believe in relationships. We believe in asking hard questions, in showing up for one another, and in sitting together through the pain. We believe in listening with grace, learning with curiosity, and apologizing with sincerity.

We believe in asking for help, saying what we need, and trusting that no degree of vulnerability could strip us of God's love. We believe in trying our best and offering grace when our best is not enough.

And we believe that God is in all relationships – modeling for us the value of community through the relationships of the Trinity. So we love today, and we strive to love even more tomorrow. In the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OUR THANKS TO GOD THROUGH OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Charles Converse

***DOXOLOGY**

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below."

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come to earth. With the bread we *need* for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

***PARTING SONG**

Eidelweiss

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see his face and his grace forever.
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

POSTLUDE "March Pontificale" Jacques Lemmens

†††

*Please rise, in body or in spirit. **Bold words indicate unison participation.**

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request this morning, please fill out the Prayer Request section of the welcome card located in the pew and place it in the offering plate.

BE LOVE

***Begin with Love
Expand the Circle***

***Lavish Love
Openhearted Love
Value the vulnerable
Emulate Christ***

OLD NORTH REFORMED CHURCH

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Website - <https://oldnorth.church>

Welcome to worship at Old North Reformed Church!

We are pleased you chose to worship with us today!

Please fill out a welcome card and sign the guest book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

If you would like more information visit our website. <https://oldnorth.church>



There are fifty days of Eastertide. After the resurrection, Jesus spent forty days on earth before he ascended, and then there were ten more days after that before the Day of Pentecost.

Prayer Chain: If you wish to add the power of prayer in times of celebration, healing, or transitions in life, please call Pat Hooey, 201-843-4456.

Your prayer requests are uplifted by our prayer team, and confidentiality is honored.



Church Family Prayer List:

- Carol • Diana • Doreen • Katie • Michael • Susan • Tom

Uplift those undergoing medical procedures and thanksgiving for those who are recovering, comfort for those in mourning, strength for those fighting cancer and for all caregivers, and those seeking spiritual and emotional well-being.

Scheduled to serve today with our thanks:

Ushers & Greeters: Steven Cordova, Linda Treacy

Thank you to Donair Karkkainen for Hosting today's coffee hour.

	Ushers & Greeters	Coffee Hour Hosts
4/21	Steven Cordova, Linda Treacy	Donair Karkkainen
4/28	Donair Karkkainen, Marianne Schmude	Gail McNeill & Kathleen West
5/5	Scott Benell, Karen DiBella, Nancy Gorman	Cheryl Rodgers & Kay Hughes
5/12	Ethel Reitsema, Marilyn Hashway	The Schmude Family
5/19	Jack & Betsy Erhard	The Frohlich Family
5/26	Linda Treacy, Kay Hughes	

**Congratulations to all of our Church Family who are celebrating a special event!
Happy Birthday!**

4/3 Richard Suson – 4/4 Scott Benell – 4/5 Eleanor Woerner

4/5 Ray Suson – 4/8 Rich Schmude – 4/12 Linda Treacy

4/16 Janet Fleck – 4/16 Tiffany Sanders – 4/17 Aiden Kenny

4/20 Seppo Karkkainen – 4/23 Ashton DiBella

4/25 Kay Hughes



Pastor Linden will be away from 4/20 to 5/4.

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Rob Miller at 201-248-6500.

Sermon Note: Our sermon today is based on scripture and material from a book entitled author and United Methodist Bishop, the Rev. Tom Berlin. The book, “Reckless Love: Jesus’ Call to Love Our Neighbor” is published by Abingdon Press. It has a DVD and leader guide and is perfect for small groups or individual reading. Berlin has also published these books: + Defying Gravity: Break Free from the Culture of More. + 6 Decisions That Will Change Your Life. + 6 Things We Should Know About God. + 6 Ways We Encounter God.

Bible Study: Join Pastor Linden in the Lounge on Tuesdays from 12 – 1 p.m. There will be no Bible Study on 4/23 and 4/30.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27th FROM 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.



FOOD DRIVE:

The Dumont Food Pantry continues to need our support!

We have had great success with our Food Drives.

Come on down! Trunk to Trunk!



THRIFT SHOPPE DONATION DROP:

Help us build our inventory! When you do your Spring cleaning, remember us.

We continue to accept donations on Tuesdays between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.