

**WELCOME TO
THE PREAKNESS REFORMED CHURCH**

EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

April 5, 2026 at 11:00 AM



*"The very first Easter taught us this:
that life never ends and love never dies."*

—Kate McGahan, author

GATHERING IN THE JOY OF EASTER

 Congregation standing, as able

PRELUDE “Sound the Trumpets”

EASTER WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT “Were You There?”
“In Christ Alone”

 CALL TO WORSHIP

We thought death was the end. We thought the cross was the end.
We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb, that was it.
But this is it: the dead are living; the cross is empty; the stone is rolled away, and we proclaim today, Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

We thought the story was finished. We thought the hope had ended.
But this is it: the story has just begun; hope is newly born; the tomb is empty, and we confess today,
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

This is the good news: Jesus is risen! This is the gospel: Jesus is with us!
**Love is stronger than death, and we celebrate today,
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!**

 OPENING SONG OF PRAISE **264** “Lift High the Cross” CRUCIFER
(verses 1, 4, and 7)

 SALUTATION

 PRAYER OF PRAISE AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Let us pray,
we praise you, living and loving God, with songs and prayers and listening hearts and lives trying to follow you.

You come to us through the person of Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new.

In our culture and in our world, where the power of death gets all the headlines, your Holy Spirit summons us to be people shaped by your power to bring life, hope, and love.

Forgive what has gone wrong. Repair in us what is broken. Reveal in us what is good and turn us toward it.

So may we love with the love of Jesus flowing through us. So may we be children of resurrection, children of hope, and children of grace. Amen.

The joy and hope of Easter be with you!
And also with you!

(Please share the joy and hope of Easter.)

THE MESSAGE OF EASTER

EASTER MESSAGE WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM

“Christ is Risen”

Allen Pote

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING John 20:1-18

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

MESSAGE “Unlikely Saints: Mary Magdalene”

RESPONDING AS EASTER PEOPLE

PRAYERS AROUND THE TABLE...concluding with 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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation and Meaning of the Sacrament

Communion Litany and Song:

829 The Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood

830 Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

Words of Institution and Communion

✠ **CLOSING SONG 182** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" EASTER HYMN
(verses 1-4)

✠ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "This Joyful Eastertide" Raymond H. Haan



This year's Easter offering will support Oasis – A Haven for Women and Children. Their mission is to change the lives of women and children by breaking the cycle of poverty through compassionate programs designed to feed, clothe, educate, and empower women and children in need.



Assisting God's people in worship are Pastor Eric Nichols, worship leader; Pastor Kim Pavlovich, liturgist; Lyla Graf, worship host; Tech Team; Chancel Choir; Andrew Aslanian and Nick Mikhail, trumpeters; Kevin Lynch, accompanist; Dan King, Director of Music Ministries.

🌀 Calendar and Notices 🌀

Sun, Apr 5	10:00 am Easter Breakfast (Berdan Hall) 11:00 am Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Mon, Apr 6	OFFICE CLOSED
Tue, Apr 7	9:00 am Helping Hands 7:00 pm PRC Book Club (Nan's Room)
Wed, Apr 8	7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thu, Apr 9	12:00 pm Brown Bags and Bibles
Sun, Apr 12	9:15 am Sunday Scripture 10:00 am High School Sunday School 10:00 am Sunday Worship (Sanctuary) 10:10 am Sunday School

Please include in your prayers of intercession: *Tammy Venti, Barbara De Berry, Alice O'Connell, Jannie van Drimmelen (Corine Miller's mother), David Terpstra, Dave Vanderbush, Christina Gaboda, Priscilla Durkin, Jac Young (Glenn O'Connell's uncle), Skip Dahl, Frank Minutolo, Domenick Carofine, Mary Tielve, Janet Wright, Peggy Carroll, Cindy Van Lunen, June Jesch, James M. (friend of Kim Goerg), Donald Nix (brother of Tiffany Nix), and those awaiting diagnosis or undergoing treatments.*

Join us at our next book club on Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 PM in Nan's Room as we discuss *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Ove is a curmudgeon - set in his routines and grumpy ways - until unexpected friendship begin to soften his heart and reveal the quiet ways he touches the lives of those around him (which ties in well with our Lenten sermon series, *Unlikely Saints!*), reminding us that God often works through the most unexpected people to bring love, grace, and hope into the world. Please reach out to Pastor Kim with any questions.

Please join us in the Parlor after worship on 4/19 for a Second Hour Conversation about the non-profit organization, Wounded Warriors. Our very own Ted Curtin has been a part of Wounded Warriors for a number of years, and will be sharing his experiences as President and Co-Founder of the New Jersey Warriors hockey

program. The Warriors are affiliated with the NJ Devils and USA Hockey, and the team was created to give disabled US military veterans a new sense of purpose, camaraderie, and an opportunity to rehab, both mentally and physically, through the exciting world of ice hockey. Their team of disabled service men and servicewomen compete against other disabled veteran teams from across the country and in local charity matchups with community teams to raise awareness for veterans' issues and to combat veteran suicide.



Applications for the 2026 PRC Memorial Scholarship Awards

are now available electronically on the PRC website, paper copies in the church office, or from Joan Vanderbush at djvander90@gmail.com. Applicants may attend or plan to attend a two-year vocational college, a four-year academic college, graduate school, or be enrolled in courses which help the individual progress toward his or her educational goals. **The firm deadline this year is Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 2026.** Please adhere to all directions and timeline. Any questions, please call or text Joan at 201-245-9844. *Parents, if your children do not receive emails from PRC, please pass along this information.*

UPDATE: The Afghan family with seven children that Preakness helped to provide food, clothing, a sewing machine, automotive tools, and a very generous baby shower has now moved from Jersey City to Atlanta, Georgia. Here is one of many statements of gratitude from Mr. Sirat, "From the bottom of my heart, I thank the people and government of the United States. My family and I will be forever grateful for a second chance at life. We are also very grateful and thank God for the Preakness Reformed Church people for all their support and generosity. May God bless you all."

Easter Flowers

Today's beautiful flowers were donated by...

Patricia, Donna, Kelly, Mike, and Romi, in loving memory of

Anne and Robert R. Drake, Jr.

Robert W. Drake

Anna and John Babyak, Sr.

John Babyak, Jr.

Marie and Peter Wichot

Albert A Smith

Donna, Kelly, Mike, Romi, and Patricia, in loving memory of Zachary Wichot

The Pavlovich Family, in memory of loved ones

Joan and Dave Vanderbush, in thankfulness for the Christian love of the people of PRC

Holly and Scott Ryan, in memory of Joan and Bob Breithaupt

Charles R. Schmitt

Kris and Dan Macagney, in memory of William and Mary Bennett and Rosemary and John Macagney

Ellen Contino, in memory of Louis Contino

Nancy Sindt, in memory of Joe

The Mezey and Coyne families, in memory of Marilyn Mezey

Ellie Wattenbach, in memory of loved family

Carol, Edward, and Susan Eltringham, in memory of loved ones

Jerry and Amanda Declet and family, in memory of Grandma, Grandpa, and Poppy

Tony and Carol Galatioto, in honor of Vanessa Simpson

The McKeon Family, in loving memory of Irene Carofine

The Tiers Family with love...We miss you, Grandpa Bill

Joanne and Chris Parish, in memory of Edward McLaughlin

Marilyn and Bob Lefelar, in honor of family

Ketty Lewin, in memory of Michael Lewin

Gerda Wittlinger

Matt and Jen Graf, in memory of George Graf

Mario and Merianne Rosa, in memory of Addie and Bob

Steve Williamson, in memory of Joanne Williamson

Effie Stern, in memory of loved ones

Terry Lummer, in memory of Gary Lummer

Gaye Servideo, in memory of Laura Lefelar..."Missing our sister talks and laughs," Love you always, Gaye

David and Cynthia Bach, in loving memory of Robert Ralyea

If you donated flowers and would like to take them home with you, please do so after the 11:00 am worship service, or, if you'd prefer to leave them, our deacons and elders will deliver them to members of our congregation.



✧ **Assisting in Worship** ✧

	<u>Apr 5</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>
Flowers	Gaye Servideo	Vicki Lefelar
Counter	Amanda Declet	Ken De Berry
Ushers	Hannah Kudrik	Kathy Curtin
	Priscilla Durkin	Corine Miller
	Gaye Servideo	Ted Curtin

✧ **Consistory** ✧

<u>Elders</u>		<u>Deacons</u>	
Amanda Declet	Hannah Kudrik	Ken De Berry	Jessica Amato
Priscilla Durkin	Donna McKeon	Jennifer Graf	Gaye Servideo
Jennie Franklyn	Glenn O'Connell	Tom Powers	Vicki Lefelar
Bill Weston	Heather Kroll	Tim Coyne	Christina Gaboda
		Martin McKay	

✧ **Preakness Reformed Church Staff** ✧

Rev. Eric Nichols, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Kim Pavlovich, Associate Pastor
 Daniel King, Director of Music Ministries
 Kevin Lynch, Accompanist
 Christina Collucci, Office Manager
 Rev. Mary Marcus, Minister Emerita



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