



Worship Service for  
Ascension of the Lord  
May 17, 2026

**Prelude** “New Life in the Desert“

Claude Ruelle

**The Welcome**

**The Greeting**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**\*The Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, my soul.  
**We will praise the Lord all our lives;**  
**We will sing praise to our God as long as we live.**

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God.  
**He remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed.**

He hears the cry of the widow and the fatherless.  
**Come, let us worship the God of justice and truth!**

**\*The Hymn of Praise** “O God, Our Help In Ages Past“

LUYH 405

**\*The Psalm**

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalm 121

**\*The Song of Praise** “Lord, I need You“

Maher

## The Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
We have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
**We have fainted in our prayers and lost heart in our petitions.**

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
**We have looked for justice in the hands of humankind,  
rather than in your holy promise.**

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;  
**And we have been slow to uphold the cause of the oppressed.**

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.**

Restore those who are penitent;  
**According to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;  
**That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; Ever persistent in  
faith and patient in hope,  
To the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

*A brief moment of silence for individual confession of sin.*

## The Assurance of Pardon

Hear the words of comfort that our Savior Christ says to all who truly turn to him:  
"Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day  
and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice,  
and quickly."  
The Lord is faithful to his word. To all who truly repent and turn to him, he grants full  
pardon and peace.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy and Gracious God,

**we give you thanks that you do not grow weary of our voices, and you do not turn away from our need.**

We thank you that you have heard our confession and have answered us with mercy.

**You have removed our sins as far as the east is from the west.**

We thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, who helps us in our weakness and prays for us when we have no words left.

**For the promise of justice, for the hope of your Kingdom, and for the grace that meets us quickly, we give you our highest praise.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray and never give up,

**Amen.**

**\*The Song of Thanksgiving** “The Goodness of God” Johnson/Ingram/Fielding/Cash/Johnson

## \*The Prayer of Blessing

May the Lord, who always hears your voice, go with you now.

**May you learn to talk to God with the same boldness as the widow at the door.**

Go in peace to learn and play, knowing that you are never forgotten.

**God’s ears are always open to your prayers, and his heart is full of love for you.**

May you grow in faith and never lose heart.

**In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(Children 4 years-5th Grade are invited to Walk Out Worship.

They are released from their classrooms at 11:20 in the lower level.)

**The Old Testament Reading** “Isaiah 25:1-12”

p. 586

**The New Testament Reading** “Luke 18:1-8”

p. 877

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## The Prayer of Illumination

**The Sermon** “The Persistent Widow”

**The Prayer of Response**

**\*The Hymn of Response** “I Need Thee Every Hour”

LUYH 322 vs 1,4,5

**The Prayers of the People**

**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 Offering** *Mission: Umran & Zaki*

**The Offertory** “Sonata in D Minor: Finale (Andante)”

Felix Mendelssohn

**\*The Sending Song** “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

LUYH 25 vs 1-3

**\*The Benediction**

**The Postlude** “Menuet Gothique”

Léon Boëllmann

**Worship Leaders & Liturgical Notes**

**Preaching:** Rev. Tim Blackmon

**Organ:** Rob Hlebinsky

**Piano:** Mauricio Espinal

**Prayer of the People:** Sheila Warners

**Vocalist:** Julie Hordyk, Christie Vander Heide

We display music on the screen. LUYH (red hymnal) in pew rack; OneLicense.net #A-721176, CCLI#7750

## Welcome Guests:

Welcome, we are glad you are here! Please fill out a Guest Card (in the pew rack) and place it in the offering basket or scan the back of this bulletin for an online form. Also, join us for coffee and cookies after church so we can meet you!

## This Sunday:

**Today's Ministry Spotlight:** Missionaries -The Umran/Zaki Family who serve overseas. Their latest update is on the mission bulletin board near the mailboxes.

**Walk-Out Worship:** *Worship Center I:* Today our children will hear Jesus' teaching of the wise and foolish builders. May we forever build our lives on the Rock!

*Worship Center II:* Today our children will hear the story of Saul's conversion. Praise God that God has the power to turn His enemies into friends!

## Prayer Requests, Praises & Gratitude:

Please pray for Carol Brouwer, who will be having a procedure on Monday, May 18th to implant a spinal cord stimulator to help control her chronic back pain. Please pray for successful surgery and recovery.

Please continue to pray for Steve Holtrop and family as they mourn the loss of his brother Daniel J. Holtrop. Daniel is the son of Evelyn Holtrop and the nephew of Shirley Kuiper.

"We would like to give a big thank you to our church family for all of the cards, visits & prayers. Also, those who helped out with the service for Dave. The music and sound techs, those preparing and serving lunch. As Scott said at the service, we are not used to sitting in the front row but rather conducting funerals. It was a great service honoring Dave. Thanks to each one of you!" ~ Sandy Klaassen, Scott, Kurt and Tammy

"Thank you for the care and concern shown before and after surgery and recovery. God is so great and good. We are blessed by the love we feel." ~ MaryJo & Dennis Schaaf

## Church Announcements:

**Audio/Visual Volunteers:** We need help with camera operation, projection, audio for streaming and video streaming. The commitment is one Sunday per month. This ministry is a vital part of the outreach of our church. If you are interested, please contact Jason Zuidema (616-638-1319 / zuid98@gmail.com) or Harley Dyk (616-502-4593 / harleydyk@yahoo.com) to learn more. You are always welcome to spend a service in the booth to see what each position involves or stop by after the service.

**Friendship Club:** Thank you to all who have helped out with Friendship club this year! The list is long, but each person is so important: our faithful mentors, story tellers, kitchen helpers, cookie bakers, music leaders, tech people, willing substitutes, our custodians, and those who have supported us with prayer and gifts. This outreach ministry has been happening for over 40 years. To God be the glory!

**Summer Lawn Care & Yard Work:** Pierce Van Stratt, a junior at GHHS, is available this summer for lawn mowing and yard work on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays during the day. Work can be requested as weekly, biweekly, or one-time project. Contact Pierce by phone/ text at 616-402-4610 or find him after church.

**SWANS:** We are excited to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the SWAN's with a luncheon at the Spring Lake Country Club at 12pm (noon) on Tuesday, May 19! Reservations were required. The cost of \$15, is payable to Carole Ruiter at 616-502-2015. Please call Barb Hammond at 616-485-7595, if you need a ride.

**Synod Volunteers:** We are the host church for Synod 2026. Are you willing to drive a golf cart for a few hours around Calvin University? Often referred to as the best job at synod, volunteers support delegates with golf cart rides. Synod needs drivers every day at different times during their June 12-18, 2026 meetings. To volunteer, please sign up online [www.signup.com/go/igYLABH](http://www.signup.com/go/igYLABH) or contact Jeff Bolt at 616-224-0817.

**Young Families/Adults Bonfire Nights:** Join us at Kase and Laura Knochenhauer's home for relaxed summer bonfires intended for young families, couples, and adults in a similar stage of life. Enjoy a casual, kid-friendly evening with light snacks provided, please bring your own drinks and lawn chairs. Come and go as you're able between 6:00–8:30pm starting on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Future Dates: June 9, July 21 and August 11.



# MIDWEEK GATHERING

Spring Session: Weds. April 29- Weds. May 27, 2026  
Dinner at 5:30pm | Bible Study at 6:30pm  
Register Online or at the Welcome Desk.

## **The Life of Renewal: Recovering the Roots of Spiritual Vitality** *with Pastor Tim*

Why do some congregations flourish while others remain stagnant? Why do we drift through seasons of spiritual decline, and—more importantly—how do we navigate the path back to growth?

Spiritual vitality in a church is rarely an accident; it is the result of a community intentionally preparing the "soil" for the Spirit's work. In this five-week course, we will explore the essential preconditions for renewal, from addressing the roots of spiritual lethargy to recovering a deep, functional Gospel-centeredness.

Using Richard Lovelace's *Dynamics of Renewal* as our roadmap, we will investigate the specific theological and practical commitments that transform a congregation into a vibrant, outward-facing presence. Join us as we rediscover the primary elements of a healthy church and learn to embrace renewal, not as a seasonal event, but as a way of life.

## **A Living Member Forever:**

### **The Beauty and Necessity of the Church in the Three Forms of Unity** *with Erik Veker*

Belonging to the church is not optional. It is a living reality into which believers are placed and sustained—for their good and the glory of God. The Three Forms of Unity are not relics of the past. They are rich, precise, and alive with a vision of the church that is beautiful and necessary.

We will spend most of our time in the Belgic Confession and Heidelberg Catechism—lingering where the Catechism calls believers not merely individuals with private faith but living members of Christ's body. That changes everything. It shapes how we see Christ, ourselves, and how we endure until the Day. I want you to love the church. Not abstractly. Not cautiously. But with settled affection. What a joy to be held by Christ and placed among his people. In him—we are living members forever.

## Midweek Kids:

Children will learn about spring storms to better understand the wonders of our God. We will learn about His power and might and how we can trust and rest in His control.

## CHAOS: Middle School

Leaders and kids explore the Bible and what their faith really means in today's world.

There are also games, events, and lots of, well chaos!

We welcome any middle school student to join this fun fellowship.

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# Vacation Bible School

July 13- 16, 2026 | 9:00am-11:30am

Calling all kids to Join our Exploration of the Nature of God in Rainforest Falls!

Registration for VBS is now *Open* on our [website](#). Please invite your friends and sign-up. Also, we still need volunteers from decoration set up to welcoming faces at the doors and registration tables, to group leaders, to crafts and games. See the *Atrium Table* for volunteer descriptions and decide how you can best use your gifts. Please contact Rob or Annie with any questions.

## Volunteer Schedule

### May 17, 2026

**Projection:** Paul Marotti

**Video:** Mark Boelens, Jim Query, Jay Brace, Ethan Hodge

**Sound:** Rick Clapp

**Ushers:** Team 8: Roger Hordyk, Dan Holtrop, John Buitenhuis, Paul Marotti

**Coffee Hosts:** Ron & Sherry Herrington; Dan & Mary Sytsma

**Nursery:** Cathy Brolick, Kari DeLange

**Little Lambs:** Amy Wolffis, Sydney Marotti, Amy Bunce

**Walk Out I:** Carla Byma, Deb Wagenmaker

**Walk Out II:** Joslyn Wagenmaker, Dawn Rotman

**Greeters:** Ken Terpstra, Jay & Mabelle Knochenhauer

**Council in Parlor:** Patti Steigenga, Jim Warners

**Offering:** Mission: Umran & Zaki

### May 24, 2026

**Projection:** Dan Braak

**Video:** Chuck DeWitt, Jason Zuidema, Mark Boelens, Harley Dyk

**Sound:** Jim Warners

**Ushers:** Team 9: Eric Rotman, Ron Frantz, Dave VanderWall, Jason Zuidema

**Coffee Hosts:** Jon & Ann Kaemingk; Jamie & Amy Goorman; Reed VanStratt

**Nursery:** Rosemary Geertsma, Victoria McCarthy,

**Little Lambs:** Cherise VanderHeide, Sheila Warners

**Walk Out I:** Mary Winkle, Maelyn Wagenmaker

**Walk Out II:** Betsy Blackmon, Gabe Schaaf

**Greeters:** Patti Steigenga, Kase & Laura Knochenhauer

**Council in Parlor:** Jim Warners, Anne Zuidema

**Offering:** Tri-Cities Area Habitat for Humanity

## Calendar

### **Sunday, May 17**

10:00 AM–Worship Service

### **Monday, May 18**

9 AM-1 PM – Office Hours

1:30 PM – Ping Pong

### **Tuesday, May 19**

9 AM-1 PM – Office Hours

### **Wednesday, May 20**

9 AM-1 PM – Office Hours

1:00 PM- Knitting/Craft Group

5:30 PM – Midweek Dinner

6:30 PM – Midweek Bible Study

6:30 PM – CHAOS Middle School

### **Thursday, May 21**

9 AM-1 PM – Office Hours

7 PM- Sanctuary Choir

### **Friday, May 22**

Office Closed

### **Saturday, May 23**

### **Sunday, May 24**

10:00 AM – Worship Service

### **Monday May 25**

Office Closed

### **Connect with Second CRC**

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