

Rochester Christian Reformed Church
ORDER OF WORSHIP
April 26, 2026 – 10:00 AM
Third Sunday after Easter

Prelude *Jesus Christus, wahr' Gottes Sohn* Franz Tunder (1614-1667)

Preparing to Worship

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. [*Galatians 5:25*]

* Call to Worship

Adult Choir "We Have Seen the Risen Lord" Stan Pethel

Leader: As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. [Mark 1:16-18]

* Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" #869

* Welcome and Greeting from God, affirmed by congregational **"Amen"**

Call to Confession

Litany for GEMS Sunday

Opening

LEADER: Today, we celebrate GEMS Sunday and the girls God has entrusted to our care. We gather to proclaim that even in life's storms, God is faithful.

ALL: Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

Facing the Storms

LEADER: Jesus speaks into every storm, "Quiet! Be still." (Mark 4:39)

GIRLS: God is more powerful than the wind and the waves.

ALL: He is our Refuge, our Lighthouse, and our Peace.

Step Out in Faith

LEADER: Girls today are navigating waves of doubt, fear, loneliness, and pressure.

GIRLS: We step out in faith, knowing that Jesus is with us in every moment.

ALL: Lord, help us trust You when the waters rise.

Step Out to Trust

LEADER: Like Peter, Jesus is with us. He invites us to take courage and not be afraid. (Matthew 14:27)

GIRLS: We want to trust Jesus with our whole lives.

ALL: Strengthen our faith, Lord. Help us keep our eyes on You.

Step Out to Lead

LEADER: God called to Moses from the burning bush and asked him to step out to lead the Israelites. God reminded Moses who He is, saying, "I AM WHO I AM." (Exodus 3:14)

GIRLS: Just like Moses, God, the Great I AM, is with us. With Him, we can step out to lead however He calls us.

ALL: Empower all our girls and leaders with Your presence.

Step Out to Worship

LEADER: Like Joshua, we worship and obey—even when the steps feel unusual or unknown.

GIRLS: With God's help, we choose to worship Him with all our heart, soul, and strength.

ALL: God, receive our praise as we walk in obedience.

Step Out to Pray

LEADER: Daniel prayed boldly, even in the face of danger.

GIRLS: With God's help, we can step out to pray, trusting Him to hear and answer as He sees best.

ALL: Make us faithful in prayer, joyful in hope, and patient in every trial.

Step Out to Serve

LEADER: Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant," offering her whole life to God. (Luke 1:38)

GIRLS: With God's help, we can step out to serve however He calls us.

ALL: Lord, please help us to shine for you in all we say and do as we seek to serve You and others.

Step Out to Testify

LEADER: The Samaritan woman ran to tell everyone about Jesus.

GIRLS: With God's help, we can step out to share our testimonies and the good news about Jesus.

ALL: Lord, put a new song in our mouths so that many may hear and trust in You.

Step Out to Live for God

LEADER: Jesus forgave Peter after he denied Jesus three times. Jesus invited Peter to step out to live for Him again.

GIRLS: With God's help, we can step out to live for God each day of our lives, trusting that He loves us no matter what.

ALL: For we are God's people, called out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Blessing

LEADER: Faithful God, thank You for every person here. Please help us all step out in faith, trusting You in every wave and every storm.

ALL: Lord, You are faithful. Please help us to step out to trust You, God. Amen.

* Hymn "Lord Speak to Me that I May Speak" #754

* The Peace

Leader

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 1; Luke 15:1,2; Matthew 11:18,19*

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation

Jesus: A Friend of Sinners

Prayer of Application

* Hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians" (vs 1, 2 and 4) #256

Congregational Prayer

Offertory

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. [*Romans 12:1*]

* Hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians" (vs 1) #256

* God's Blessing, affirmed by congregational "**Amen**"

Postlude

Praeludium in G Minor

F. Tunder

Leading Us in Worship Today:

Minister: Pastor Jack Vanden Heuvel

Organist: Ryan Chan

Liturgist: Charlene and GEMS

Adult Choir: Ryan Chan, Director

Congregational Song Leader: Jeff Harp

Children's Message: Charlene and GEMS

Offertory Deacon: Bob Null

Congregational Prayer: Ray Croucher

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