

EASTER CONCERT

2024



THE MINI ORCHESTRA

&

CRESCENDO CHOIR

of

THE REFORMED CONGREGATIONS OF
NEW ZEALAND IN CARTERTON

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 52:13-15

¹³Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. ¹⁴As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: ¹⁵So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

Isaiah 53:1-12

¹Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? ²For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form or comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. ³He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. ⁸He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression for my people was he stricken. ⁹And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous

servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Instrumental:

No 23. – Air for Alto “He was Despised” – from Handels Messiah

This piece of music is one small section of “The Messiah” Oratorio written by Georg Friederich Händel.

Its text is compiled from the KJV and the Coverdale Psalter by Charles Jennens. This particular section is based on Isaiah 53:3

Congregational Singing:

O Sacred Head Now Wounded v 1-3

1. *O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded,
With thorns Thine only crown;
How art Thou pale with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish,
Which once was bright as morn!*

2. *What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered,
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Saviour,*

*'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favour,
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.*

3. *What language shall I borrow,
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord let me never, never,
Outlive my love to Thee.*

Scripture Reading:

John 19:1-11

¹Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. ²And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, ³And said, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him with their hands. ⁴Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. ⁵Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! ⁶When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. ⁷The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. ⁸When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; ⁹And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence are thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? ¹¹Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Congregational Singing:

Ah, Dearest Jesus How Hast Thou Offended v 1-4

1. Ah, dearest Jesus, how hast Thou offended,
That man to judge Thee, hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!

2. Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied Thee;
I crucified Thee.

3. *For me, dear Jesus, was Thine incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and Thy life's oblation;
Thy death of anguish, and Thy bitter passion,
For my salvation.*

4. *Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay Thee,
I do adore Thee, and will ever pray Thee,
Think on Thy pity, and Thy love unswerving,
Not my deserving.*

Choir:

'Tis Midnight and on Olive's Brow v 1-4

1. *'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow,
The star is dimmed that lately shone;
'Tis midnight, in the garden now
The suffering Saviour prays alone.*

3. *'Tis midnight, and for others' guilt
The Man of Sorrows weeps in blood;
Yet He who hath in anguish knelt
Is not forsaken by His God.*

2. *'Tis midnight, and from all removed
Emmanuel wrestles lone with fears
E'en the disciple whom He loved,
Heeds not his Master's grief and tears.*

4. *'Tis midnight, and from ether plains
Is borne the song that angels know;
Unheard by mortals are the strains
That sweetly soothe the Saviour's woe.*

Scripture Reading:

John 19:16-19

¹⁶Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. ¹⁷And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: ¹⁸Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. ¹⁹And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS of NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Choir:

The old Rugged Cross v 1-4

1. *On a hill far away,
stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross
where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

Refrain:

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

2. *Oh, that old rugged cross
so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God
Left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary. (Refrain)*

3. *In the old rugged cross,
stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me. (Refrain)*

4. *To the old rugged cross
I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day
to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.
(Refrain)*

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 27:45-50

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? ⁴⁷Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. ⁴⁸And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias

will come to save him. ⁵⁰Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Congregational Singing:

Psalter 47:1, 8 &9

1. *My God, My God, I cry to Thee; O why hast Thou forsaken Me?
Afar from Me, Thou dost not heed, Though day and night for help I plead.*

8. *Down unto death Thou leadest Me, Consumed by thirst and agony;
With cruel hate and anger fierce My helpless hands and feet they pierce.*

9. *While on My wasted form they stare, The garments torn from Me they share,
My shame and sorrow heeding not, And for My robe they cast the lot.*

Choir:

Why? v 1-3

1. *Why did they nail Him to Calvary's
tree?*

Why? tell me, why was He there?

Jesus the Helper, the Healer, the Friend

Why? tell me, why was He there?

Chorus:

All my iniquities on Him were laid

He nailed them all to the tree.

Jesus the debt of my sin fully paid

He paid the ransom for me.

2. *Why should He love me, a sinner
undone?*

Why? tell me, why should He care?

I do not merit the love He has shown

Why? tell me, why should He care?

(Chorus)

3. *Why should I linger afar from His
love?*

Why? tell me, why should I fear?

*Somehow I know I should venture and
prove*

Why? tell me, why should I fear?

(Chorus)

BREAK

Scripture Reading:

Luke 24: 1-9

¹Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. ³And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: ⁵And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, ⁷Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. ⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

Congregational Singing:

Christ the Lord is Risen Today v 1-4

1. "Christ the Lord is risen today,"

Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say;

Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high;

Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavn's, and earth reply.

Alleluia!

2. Lives again our glorious King;

Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting?

Alleluia!

Once He died, our souls to save;

Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3. Love's redeeming work is done;

Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won;

Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise; Alleluia!

Christ has opened Paradise. Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,

Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head;

Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise;

Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Alleluia

Choir:

Alleluia! Alleluia! v 1-3

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. Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits

Of the holy harvest-field,

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.

3. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory to the Three in One:

To the Father, and the Saviour,

Who the victory has won;

Glory to the Holy Spirit,

Fount of love and sanctity;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

To the Triune Majesty

Congregational Singing:

Hallelujah! What a Saviour v 1-5

1. Man of sorrows what a name, for the Son of God who came.

Ruined sinners to reclaim, Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

2. Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned He stood

Sealed my pardon with His blood, Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

3. *Guilty, vile, and helpless we, Spotless Lamb of God was He.
Full atonement, can it be! Hallelujah! What a Saviour!*

4. *Lifted up was He to die, "It is Finished!" was His cry.
Now in heav'n exalted high, Hallelujah! What a Saviour!*

5. *When He comes, our glorious King, all His ransomed home to bring.
Then anew this song we'll sing: Hallelujah! What a Saviour!*

Instrumental:

Because He Lives

Choir:

Thine is the Glory v 1-3

1. *Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory,
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment,
rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes
where Thy body lay.*

Chorus:

*Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son.
Endless is the victory,
Thou o'er death hast won.*

2. *Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb,
Lovingly He greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let His church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth:
death hath lost its sting. (Chorus)*

3. *No more we doubt Thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without Thee:
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors,
through Thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan
by thy pow'r above. (Chorus)*

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 21:1-8

¹And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. ²And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. ⁴And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. ⁵And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. ⁶And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. ⁷He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. ⁸But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Choir:

Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved:
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing Gods praise
Than when we'd first begun! Amen

Closing with prayer and thanksgiving

Congregational Singing:

Psalter 303 v 1-3

1. *The Lord unto His Christ hath said, Sit Thou at my right hand
Until I make Thy enemies Submit to Thy command.*

*A scepter prospered by the Lord Thy mighty hand shall wield;
From Zion Thou shalt rule the world, And all Thy foes shall yield.*

2. *Thy people will be gladly Thine When Thou shalt come in might
Like dawning day, like hopeful youth, With holy beauty bright.
A priest-hood that shall never end The Lord hath given Thee;
This He hath sworn, and ever-more Fulfilled His word shall be.*

3. *Thou shalt subdue the kings of earth With God at Thy right hand;
The nations Thou shalt rule in might And judge in every land.
The Christ, refreshed by living streams, Shall neither faint nor fall,
And He shall be the glorious Head, Exalted over all.*

Thank you for your attendance this evening.

We hope and pray that the Lord's blessing may rest on the message of Easter presented to you tonight.

Please join us for refreshments in the hall.