

Easter Vigil

April 15, 2017 | 8:00 p.m.
Fourth Presbyterian Church

Service of Light

Greetings and Introduction

Minister: Grace and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Paschal Flame

Procession into the Church

Leader: The light of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please note

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Litany of Saints

We enter the Sanctuary in darkness.

Please take your seats and await the passing of the Light of Christ.

Easter Proclamation

Leader: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

Leader: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes forever!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

Leader: Rejoice, O mother church! Exult in glory!
The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right that with full hearts and minds
and voices we should praise you, the unseen God,
the all-powerful creator, and your only Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ, for Christ has ransomed us with his blood
and paid for us the debt of Adam's sin.

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

Leader: This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb,
is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.
This is the night when first you saved our forebears:
you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them
dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when the pillar of fire
destroyed the darkness of sin! This is the night when Christians
everywhere, washed clean from sin and freed from all
defilement, are restored to grace and grow together
in holiness. This is the night when Jesus Christ broke
the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

Leader: Lord God, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless
your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.
Most blessed of nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from
the dead! The power of this holy night dispels all evil,
washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy;
it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.
Night truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth
and we are reconciled with God! Therefore, gracious God,
in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise,
your church's solemn offering. May this Easter candle always
dispel the darkness of this night! May the morning star which
never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that morning star,
who came back from the dead and shed his peaceful light on
all creation, your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

Please extinguish your candles and pass them to the outer aisle.

Service of Readings

Reading “The Story of Creation”
Genesis 1:1–2:4a

***Hymn 31** “Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”

Reading “The Flood”
Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

***Hymn 329** “God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength”

Reading “Israel’s Deliverance at the Red Sea”
Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

***Hymn 52** “When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land”

Reading “Salvation Offered Freely to All”
Isaiah 55:1–11

Solo “Seek the Lord”

Reading “A New Heart and a New Spirit”
Ezekiel 36:24–28

***Hymn 288** “Spirit of the Living God”

Reading “The Valley of the Dry Bones”
Ezekiel 37:1–14

Solo “Dry Bones”

Proclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Ring of Bells

(Please join in the ringing of the bells and move to the front of the sanctuary.)

***Hymn 232** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Prayer of the Day

Epistle Reading Romans 6:3–11 (New Testament, page 146)

Psalm 114 (*All sing this refrain after each of the verses.*)

1. When Israel came out of Egypt,
and Jacob from a foreign land,
Judah became the Lord's holy people,
and Israel the dominion of God.

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. The sea looked and ran away.
The Jordan River turned back;
the mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Sea, what makes you run away?
O Jordan, why did you turn back?
Why, mountains, do you skip like rams,
and you, little hills, like young sheep?

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,
at the coming of the God of Jacob,
who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the granite cliff into a fountain.

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:1–10 (New Testament, page 32)

Sermon “Paschal Homily”..... St. John Chrysostom, Fourth Century

***Hymn 245** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Invitation

***Profession of Faith**

Minister: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world? Do you?

People: I do.

Minister: Who is your Lord and Savior?

People: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Minister: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his word and showing his love? Will you?

People: I will, with God's help.

***Apostles' Creed** (*unison*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting
Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Minister: As we prepare to come to the table of our Lord,
let us not be strangers to one another,
but family in Christ.
May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Minister: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to God.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 572

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Minister: All-embracing God . . .
. . . that we might live in love.

All: Christ is risen from the dead. Love has come again.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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 Communion

The Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Gracious God, you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
We have recalled your mighty acts in holy history.
We have seen your power in sending light to drive away shadows
You have poured out the waters of baptism to give us life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish us in love.
Send us with your salvation and joy to all the world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 248** "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

Charge and Blessing

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
in the power of Christ's resurrection. Alleluia!
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

People: Amen.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude Symphonie V Charles-Marie Widor
Toccata

Worship Leaders

Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life
Cole Seaton Tenor Soloist
John W. W. Sherer Organist and Director of Music
Beverly Washington Reader
Kat Evans Reader
Jonathan Kent Reader
John R. Dallas Reader
Sara Younger Reader
Ashley Swidnicki Reader
Jeffry Weber Reader
Michael Tax Reader
Sarah Douglas Reader
Thomas Douglas Light Bearer

*Following the service, please join us
for refreshments in the Loggia.*

The Communion liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost*. Westminster John Knox Press.



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