

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

First Presbyterian Church

April 10, 2020 on Facebook live

Service of Light

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

Grace and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord.

And also with you.

Beloved people of God, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water, bread, and wine, We proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, we share Christ's triumph over sin and death and we await Christ's coming again in glory.

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the life of Christ is the light of all people

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

LIGHTING OF THE NEW FIRE

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and kindle in us the desire to shine with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of Righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

You are invited to light a candle or candles in your home.

The light of Christ rises in glory,

Casting out the shadow of sin and death.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Jesus Christ our King is risen!

Let every place resound with joy,

Echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

You are invited to echo the phrase "This is the night" whenever it is spoken as the prayer continues.

Service of Story

THE STORY OF CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

THE GREAT FLOOD

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Faithful God, you placed the rainbow in the skies as the sign of your covenant with all living things. May we who are saved through water and the Spirit, worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DELIVERANCE AT THE SEA

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. Through the waters of the sea you once delivered your chosen people from slavery, a sign for us of the salvation of all nations through the grace of Baptism. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A NEW HEART AND SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

God of holiness and light, in the mystery of dying and rising with Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation. Cleanse our hearts and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be professed and proclaimed to the whole world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 158

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

MARY'S CHILD

*1. Born in the night, Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.*

*2. Clear shining light, Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
light of the world, Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.*

*3. Truth of our life, Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
prove it is true, Mary's Child,
go to your cross of wood.*

*4. Hope of the world, Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
Savior of all, Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.*

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Matthew 28:1-10

HYMN 587 - *Celtic Alleluia*

Service of New Life

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ.

In the one Spirit we are all baptized into one body. We are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Beloved people of God, through baptism we are washed clean from sin and made one as members of Christ's body. By the mystery of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, the power of sin was broken and God's realm entered our world. In baptism we become citizens of God's new creation, forever set free from the bondage of sin and death. Tonight we celebrate our freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask all of you, therefore, to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we are baptized.

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

I renounce them.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

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

I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by 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 to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

You are invited to pour water into a bowl in your home. Each person may touch the water as these words are spoken:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

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

INVITATION TO THE RESURRECTION FEAST

According to the prophet Isaiah, the day is coming when the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and well-aged wines. On that day, the Lord will destroy the shroud of death that is cast over the whole earth; God will take away the disgrace of the people and wipe away the tears from all faces.

God will swallow up death forever.

This is the day of resurrection; this is the Lord for whom we have waited. Let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation.

Tomorrow we will feast on the bread of life and the cup of promise.

This will be the feast of God's resistance to the ways of the world.

The poor are blessed.

The lowly are lifted up.

The mourning are comforted.

The hungry are filled.

This will be our feast of hope in a time of fear and danger.

Wars shall cease.

Injustices will be made right.

The sick will be healed.

Pandemics will end.

This will be the feast where everything is made new.

Those in bondage will know freedom.

Hearts of stone will be turned to hearts of flesh.

Light will shine in the darkness.

Christ's church will find new ways of being.

Tomorrow, we will feast on the bread of life and the cup of promise. We will begin a great fifty days of Easter, our feast of resistance, hope, and new life.

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. We have remembered your mighty acts in holy history. We have seen your power in sending light to

conquer darkness, water to give us life, and the bread of heaven to nourish us in love. Send us out now with the good news of salvation and a message of joy for all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 231

Christ is Risen While Earth Slumbers

NETTLETON

*1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor.
Christ is risen, God is here!*

*2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave*

*Christ has risen for disciples
buddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
Can't be silenced by the tomb.*

*3. Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.*

THE BLESSING AND CHARGE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord in the power of his resurrection. **Amen.**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen!**
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen!**
Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**
Alleluia! **Amen.**