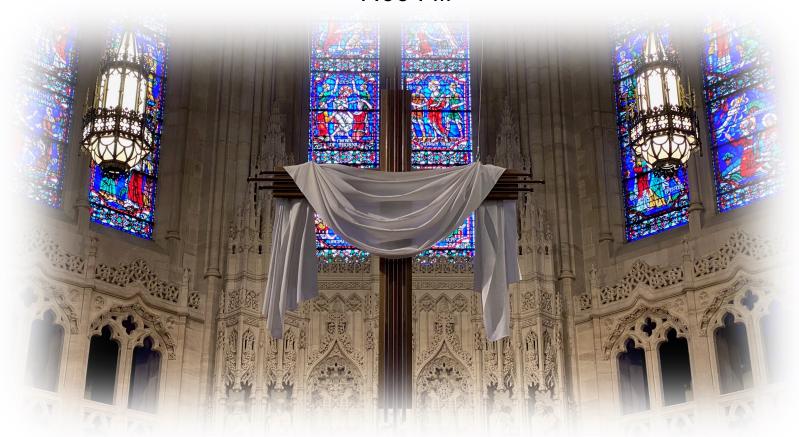


A JOURNEY THROUGH BAPTISM TO THE RESURRECTION

Easter Vigil

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023 7:00 pm





EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God — the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God's unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ's radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, April 8, 2023 • 7:00 pm

TIME OF GATHERING

Service of Light

WELCOME The Rev. BJ Woodworth

Please gather around the Paschal Candle.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE NEW FIRE

The Rev. Woodworth

LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Those gathered are asked to light their individual candle from the Paschal Candle.

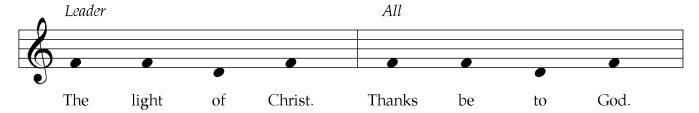
Each year at the Easter Vigil the Paschal Candle is lit. The design of the candle is rich in symbolism. The center of the candle is a gold cross with red Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The letters signify that Jesus Christ is the 'First and the Last,' the 'Beginning and the End.' (Revelation 22:13) The green laurel branches beneath the cross represent the victory of the resurrection. The current year represents that God is in the present amidst the congregation.

PRAYER The Rev. Woodworth

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "The Light of Christ"

Dr. Edward Alan Moore

The congregation sings the response and then proceeds to the entrance of the Chapel.



The congregation sings the response a second time at the entrance of the Columbarium.

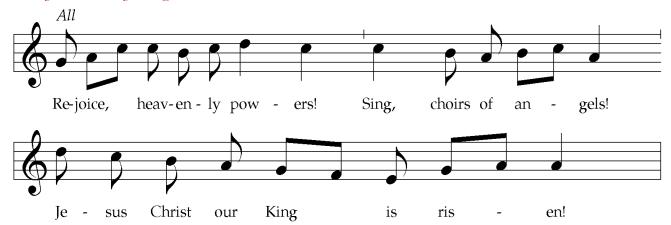
The congregation proceeds to the pews in the Chapel.

The congregation sings the response for a third and final time while standing in the pews in the Chapel. Please raise your candles.

^{*} Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.

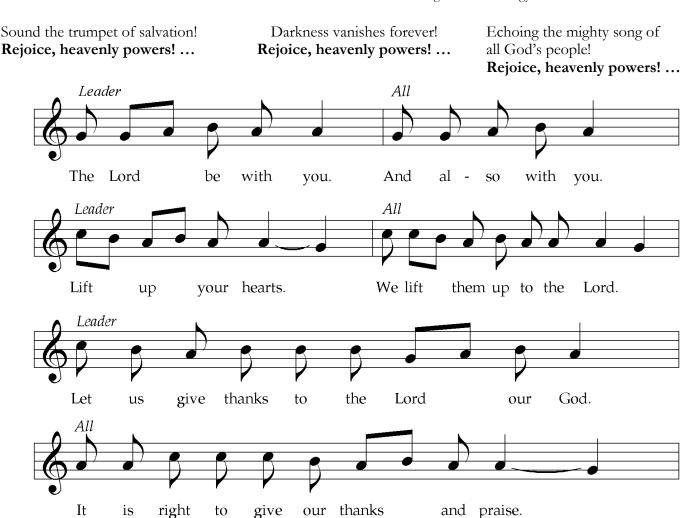
EASTER PROCLAMATION / THE EXSULTET

Please raise your candle as you sing.



International Committee on English in the Liturgy. OneLicense.net #A-700877

International Committee on English in the Liturgy. OneLicense.net #A-700877



For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the debt of Adam's sin.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! ...

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death, and rose triumphant from the grave.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! ...

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.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! ...

Service of Readings

FIRST READING: STORY OF CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Todd Farwell

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light;" and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that had been done in creation.

SILENCE

Cantors sing verses; congregation sings refrain.

Refrain



Lord, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

PRAYER (in unison)

Todd Farwell

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.

SECOND READING: ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-31

Robin Thompson

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. Their chariot wheels became clogged so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Egyptians were tossed into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in the Lord's servant Moses.

SILENCE

PRAYER (in unison)

Robin Thompson

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 of 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.

THIRD READING: SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

Isaiah 55:1-11

Reed Williams

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for God has glorified you. Seek the Lord; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that the Lord may have mercy on them, and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

SILENCE

CANTICLE

"First Canticle of Isaiah"

PRAYER (in unison)

Reed Williams

Eternal God, by the power of your Word you created all things and by your Spirit you renew the earth. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you and nourish with the spiritual food of bread and wine all who hunger for you, that our lives may bear the abundant fruit of your heavenly reign; through Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, who, with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.

FOURTH READING: THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ian Herzer

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. The Lord led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. The Lord said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then the Lord said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then the Lord said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open

your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

SILENCE

METRICAL PSALM



Text: The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909. Music: Este's Psalmes, 1592; harm. George Kirbye, 1592.

PRAYER (in unison)

Jan Herzer

Living God, by the Passover of your Son, you have brought us out of sin into righteousness, and out of death into life. Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

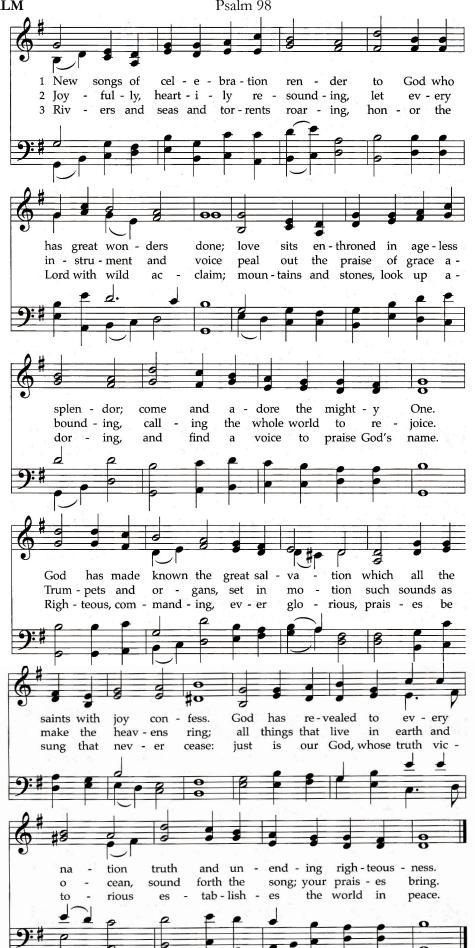
FIFTH READING: A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Carol Mullen

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

SILENCE



Text: Erik Routley, 1972, alt. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1543, rev. 1551. Text: Hope Publishing. CCLÎ #689547

PRAYER (in unison)

Carol Mullen

Let us pray. 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.

Please move through the narthex, picking up a bell from the table (without ringing it) and gather in the Sanctuary at the cross-aisle.

SIXTH READING

Matthew 28:1-10

The Rev. Woodworth

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord. **People:** Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

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!

All: Alleluia, alleluia!

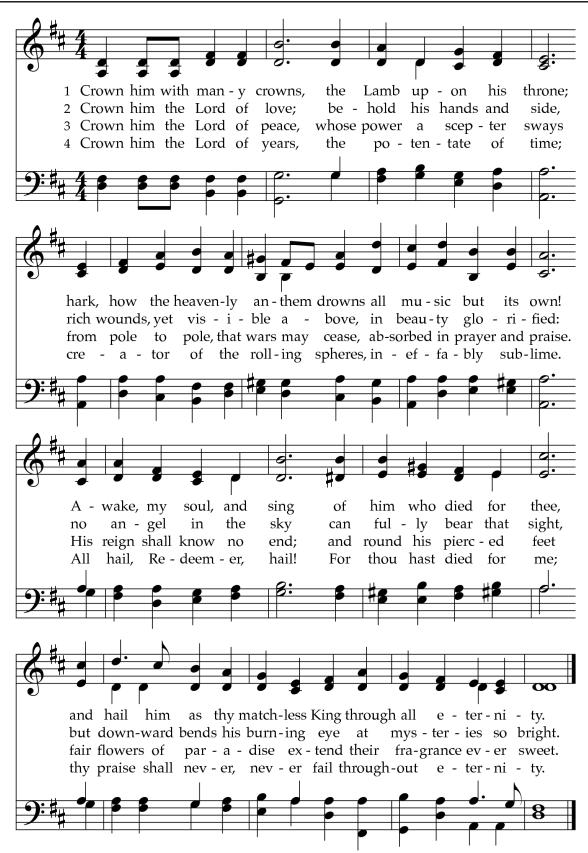
The congregation moves to the pews in the Sanctuary, ringing the bells throughout the hymn.

The communion bread will be presented by Susan Wadsworth-Booth.

* HYMN (printed on next page)

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

DIADEMATA



This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

Service of

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

OPENING WORDS OF SCRIPTURE

The Rev. Woodworth

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

PROFESSION OF FAITH ("In Life and In Death" from <u>Stages on the Way</u> by Iona Community) The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: In life, in death, in life beyond death,

People: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Leader: Over powers and principalities, over all who determine, control, govern or finance the affairs of

humankind,

People: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Leader: Of the poor, of the broken, of the sinned against and of the sinner,

People: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Leader: Above the Church, beyond our most excellent theologies, and in the quiet corners of our hearts,

People: Jesus Christ is Lord. Leader: Thanks be to God!

People: Amen.

AFFIRMATION The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father and Mother of us all?

People: I believe in God, the Father and Mother of us all, creator of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: 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.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

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

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

Leader: We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water.

In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood, giving righteousness a new beginning. You led Israel out of slavery, through the waters of the sea, into the freedom of the

promised land.

In the waters of Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Christ set us free from sin and death, and opened the way to eternal life.

People:

We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. In it we were buried with Christ in his death. From it we were raised to share in his resurrection. Through it we were reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith. We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE WATER OF RENEWAL

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Service of the Easter Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Rev. Woodworth

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Woodworth

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion is by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup, returning to your seat by the side aisles. Prepackaged wafers and juice are also available.

The congregation may dip their hands in the baptismal font, remembering their baptism, as they come forward to receive communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

The Rev. Woodworth

Gracious God, we have recalled your mighty acts in 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 with your salvation and joy to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* HYMN (printed on the next pages)

"To God Be The Glory"

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Woodworth

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE (chorus only; printed in the back of bulletin)

"To God Be The Glory"

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Please return bells to the table in the Narthex.

Participants

Service Leader: The Rev. BJ Woodworth

Liturgists: Todd Farwell, Jan Herzer, Carol Mullen, Robin Thompson,

Doug Booth and Susan Wadsworth-Booth, Reed Williams

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist/Music Director

Todd Farwell, Robin Thompson, Logan Williams, Cantors

Sound Technicians: Tim Benedict, Wayne Gaines

Notes on the Service ...

Our *Book of Common Worship* calls The Great Easter Vigil, "the brightest jewel of Christian liturgy." It is one of the oldest liturgical observances of the church, pre-dating Roman Catholicism, with roots in the New Testament church. Century by century, the liturgy was refined and symbols were added. By the fourth century, all of the elements were present: Light; Word; Baptism; and Eucharist. In the Vigil, we move from Maundy Thursday's darkness to Easter's light, through covenant and baptism to the anticipatory banquet of the Kingdom.

The Vigil is divided into four services or sections. Beginning with the Service of Light at the threshold of the church, the worship proceeds to a Service of the Word in the chapel, moving then to a Service of Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows as the worship moves to the sanctuary. The worship concludes with the Easter Proclamation, the Restoration of the Church and a Service of the Eucharist at the Communion table.

We invite you to celebrate Easter with us tomorrow at any of our worship services.

8:45 am • Journey Worship

Communion will be celebrated at this service in the Social Hall (basement level). The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

9:30 am • Fellowship

Please join us in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms from 9:30 to 10:45 am for a special time of fellowship and hospitality.

11:00 am • Sanctuary Worship

This is our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists. Special music begins at 10:45 am. The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching and leading communion.





TO GOD BE THE GLORY

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.11 with refrain William Howard Doane, 1875 Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875 things He 1. To God be the glo - ry, great hath done! He hath taught us, great 2. Great things things He hath done, So loved He the world that He gave His Son, re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; And great our Who yield ed His life tone - ment for sin, an a er, and high - er, will be But and great - er pur life - gate that in. And o - pened the all may go Our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.



