



Easter Vigil

April 4, 2026 • 7:00 PM



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church

Image by Jennifer Norton
www.jennortonartstudio.com



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 4, 2026 • 7:00 pm

TIME OF GATHERING *(in the Narthex)*

Service of Light

WELCOME

Rev. BJ Woodworth

Please gather around the Paschal Candle outside on the Penn Ave steps.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE NEW FIRE

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

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.

Leader	All
The light of Christ.	Thanks be to God.

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.

Service of Readings

FIRST READING: STORY OF CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Carol Mullen and Reed Williams

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, 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 he called Night.

Congregational Response: 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.

Congregational Response: 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 he 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. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.

Congregational Response: 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.

Congregational Response: 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 the great sea monsters and 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 fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

Congregational Response: 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. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.

Congregational Response: And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humans 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 humans in their image, in the image of God, 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.”

Congregational Response: And it was so. God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good - very good. Evening came, and morning followed the sixth day.

Thus, the heavens and the Earth and all their array were completed. On the seventh day, God had finished all the work of creation, and so, on that seventh day, God rested.

Congregational Response: God blessed the seventh day and called it sacred because on it, God rested from all the work of creation.

SILENCE

METRICAL PSALM
HYMN #31

Psalm 136

“Let Us with a Gladsome Mind”

MONKLAND

1 Let us with a glad - some mind praise the
2 God, with all - com - mand - ing might, filled the
3 All things liv - ing God does feed; with full
4 Let us with a glad - some mind praise the

Lord who is so kind:
new - made world with light: for God's mer - cies
mea - sure, meets their need:
Lord who is so kind:

shall en - dure, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er sure.

TEXT: John Milton, 1624, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. John Antes, c. 1790; harm. John B. Wilkes, 1861

MONKLAND
7.7.7.7

PRAYER (*in unison*)

Carol Mullen and Reed Williams

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.

PRAYER (*in unison*)

Doris Dick

Fountain of wisdom, by your word you set the universe in space, and with your hands you molded us in your image. Everywhere we see signs of your loving care. Guide us always into your ways, that in your wisdom we may find life abundant, and live forever in the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

FOURTH READING: A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Beverly Harris-Schenz

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 42

Cantors sing verses; congregation sings refrain.

My soul is thirst - ing for the Lord;
when shall I see God face to face? ___

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PRAYER (*in unison*)

Beverly Harris-Schenz

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.

FIFTH READING: THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rev. Sarah Robbins

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.”

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

SILENCE

METRICAL PSALM
HYMN #371

Psalm 98
"New Songs of Celebration"

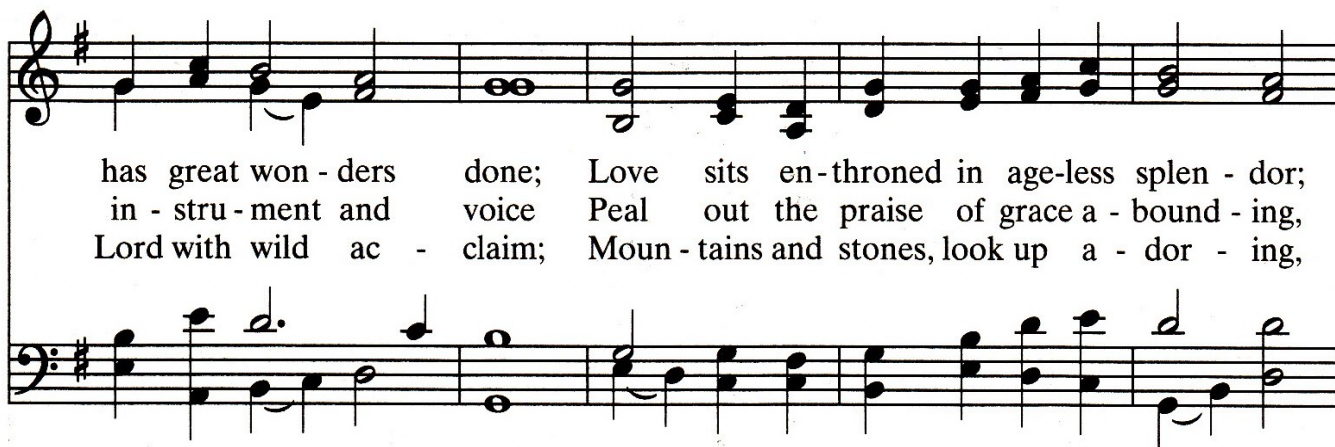
RENDEZ À DIEU

Erik Routley, 1972; alt. 1984

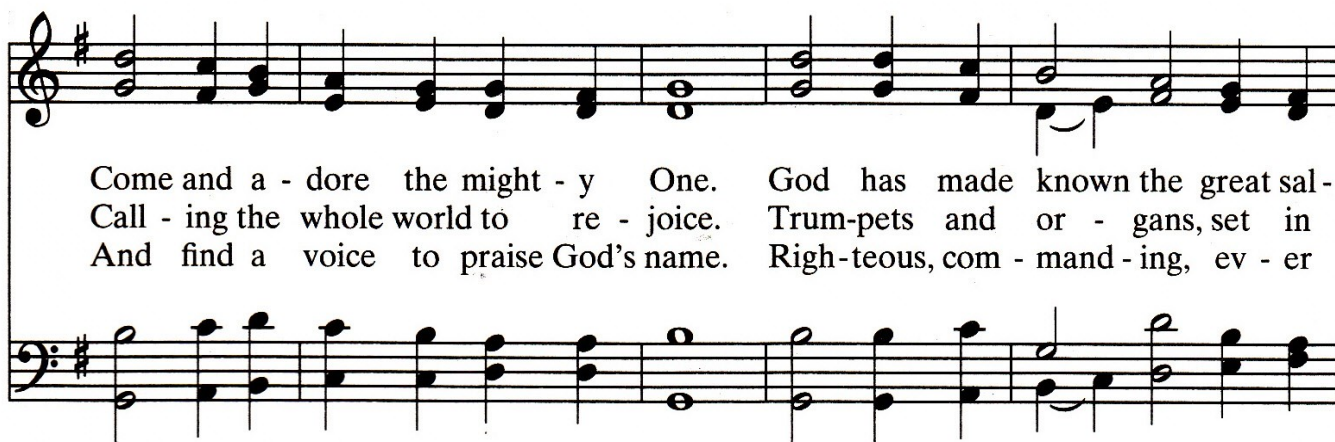
Louis Bourgeois, 1543; rev. 1551



1. New songs of cel - e - bra - tion ren - der To God who
2. Joy - ful - ly, heart - i - ly re - sound - ing, Let ev - ery
3. Riv - ers and seas and tor - rents roar - ing, Hon - or the



has great won - ders done; Love sits en - throned in age - less splen - dor;
in - stru - ment and voice Peal out the praise of grace a - bound - ing,
Lord with wild ac - claim; Moun - tains and stones, look up a - dor - ing,



Come and a - dore the might - y One. God has made known the great sal -
Call - ing the whole world to re - joice. Trum - pets and or - gans, set in
And find a voice to praise God's name. Righ - teous, com - mand - ing, ev - er

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Continued on next page...

va - tion Which all the saints with joy con - fess. God has re -
 mo - tion Such sounds as make the heav - ens ring; All things that
 glo - rious, Prais - es be sung that nev - er cease: Just is our

vealed to ev - ery na - tion Truth and un - end - ing right-ous-ness.
 live in earth and o - cean, Sound forth the song, your prais-es bring.
 God, whose truth vic - to - rious Es - tab - lish - es the world in peace.

PRAYER *(in unison)*

Rev. Robbins

Eternal God of unchanging power and light, look with mercy on your whole church. Bring to completion your saving work, so that the whole world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new, and all things brought to perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Mark 16:1-8

Todd Farwell

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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.

* **HYMN #248** (*printed on next page*) “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

HYMN TO JOY

Service of Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

OPENING WORDS OF SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:3-11

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 Stages on the Way by Iona Community*)

Rev. Woodworth

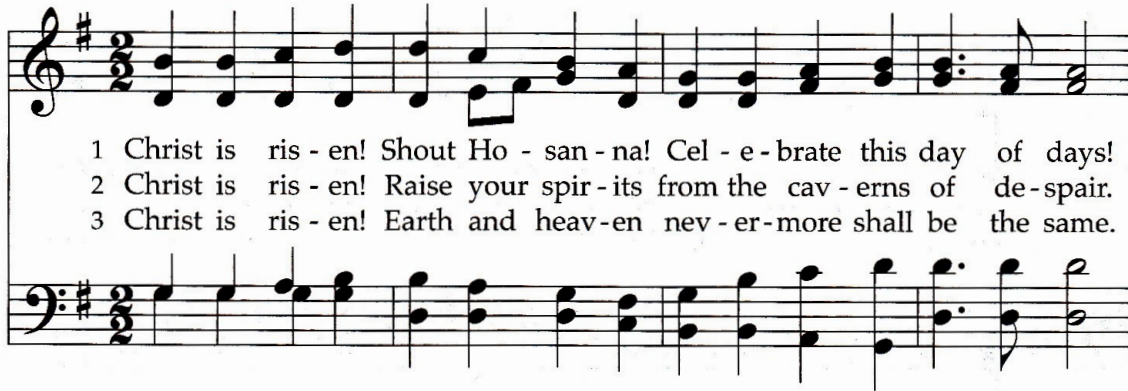
Leader: In life, in death, in life beyond death,
People: **Jesus Christ is Lord.**
Leader: Over powers and principalities, over all who determine, control, govern or finance the affairs of humankind,
People: **Jesus Christ is Lord.**
Leader: Of the poor, of the broken, of the sinned against and of the 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

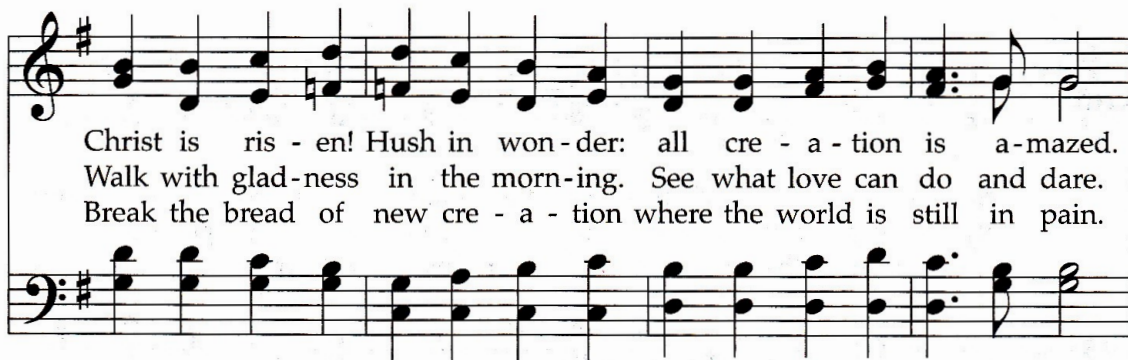
Rev. Woodworth

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.**

CHRIST IS RISEN! SHOUT HOSANNA!



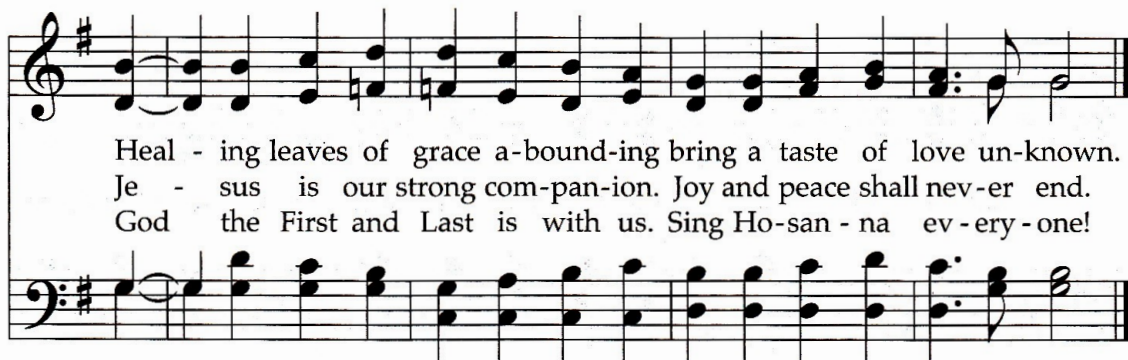
1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

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

Rev. Robbins and Rev. Woodworth

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Robbins and Rev. Woodworth

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Robbins and Rev. Woodworth

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.

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)*

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.

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1995
 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

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TRURO
LM

* CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Woodworth

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE HYMN #634 *(chorus only; printed on next page)*

“To God Be The Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Please return bells to the table in the Narthex.



Participants

<i>Service Leader:</i>	Rev. BJ Woodworth
<i>Liturgists:</i>	Doris Dick, Sharon Geibel, Todd Farwell Beverly Harris-Schenz, Carol Mullen, Reed Williams
<i>Musicians:</i>	Dr. Edward Alan Moore, <i>Director of Music & Arts</i> Adrianna Cleveland, Todd Farwell, David Jennings-Smith, Kym Laret Denise Sheffey-Powell, Robin Thompson, Logan Williams
<i>Beadles:</i>	Heather Eng, Tim Engelhardt, Laura Ristau
<i>Sound Technicians:</i>	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 Chapel.
Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz preaching.

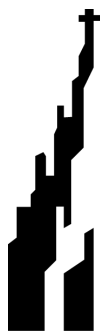
9:45 am • Fellowship

Please join us in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms from
9:45 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. Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz
preaching and leading communion.





East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Extending radical hospitality to all!

116 South Highland Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206 

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