

**The Great Vigil of Easter – The First Service of Easter  
Saturday, April 3 at 8pm**

**THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*The service begins outside in the darkness of night as the faithful gather in silence. In kindling new fire and lighting the paschal candle, we are reminded that Christ came as a light shining in darkness (John 1:5). Using fire, candles, words, movement, and music, the worshipping community becomes the pilgrim people of God following the “pillar of fire” given to us in Jesus Christ, the light of the world.*

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

THE LIGHTING AND THE BLESSING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH AND THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*Please light your candle(s) with the lighting of the Paschal Candle.  
At the end of the Exsultet you may extinguish your candle.*

THE EXSULTET: The Easter Proclamation—A fifth-century hymn      Cailan Compierchio, Cantor

**THE SERVICE OF READINGS**

*The second part of the vigil consists of a series of readings from the Old and New Testaments. These lessons provide a panoramic view of what God has done for humanity. The readings thus retell our “holy history” as God’s children, summarizing the faith into which we are baptized.*

**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

THE STORY OF CREATION

GOD’S TROMBONES: SEVEN NEGRO SPIRITUALS IN VERSE (1927), “The Creation”  
by James Weldon Johnson

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a  
Madison Goodson, Reader

PRAYER

Will Capizzi, Liturgist

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THE COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND THE EARTH

Genesis 7:1 - 5, 11– 18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13  
Alexis Chiappetta, Reader

HYMN NO. 315

“In the Midst of New Dimensions” *Stanzas 1—3*

*New Dimensions*

*In the midst of new dimensions,  
in the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples  
wandering in their separate ways?*

**REFRAIN**

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,  
Now and ever, now and evermore.*

*Through the flood of starving people, warring factions, and despair,  
who will lift the olive branches?*

*Who will light the flame of care?   **REFRAIN***

*As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,  
grant that we, your global village,  
might envision wider dreams. REFRAIN*

PRAYER

Will Capizzi, Liturgist

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ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

"The Story of the Exodus"  
By Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel (LCA)

Exodus 14:10 – 15:1  
Madison Suk & Sarah Wynne, Readers

ANTHEM

"O Mary Don't You Weep" Traditional, arr. Noel A. Piercy  
Emily Wynne, Solo

PRAYER

Will Capizzi, Liturgist

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THE GLORIA HYMN NO. 582

"Glory to God"

*Glory to God*

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*World without end, without end. Amen.*  
*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

EPISTLE READING

Romans 6:3-11

Charlotte Casazza, Reader & Liturgist

PSALM 114 (*Read Responsively*)

LEADER: Hallelujah! When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

**ALL: Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel God's dominion.**

LEADER: The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

**ALL: The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.**

LEADER: Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

**ALL: O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?**

LEADER: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**ALL: who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a flowing spring.**

LEADER: Let us pray: Generous and Patient God, we offer you our praise, our thanks and our worship. We remember with thanks our heritage as your people of faith, and we ask that we may be blessed as we seek to be your faithful people every day of our life, and that we may honor and serve you with our songs and prayers; with awe and reverence; and with joy and delight.

**ALL: Amen.**

ANTHEM

"Good Morning Starshine" from HAIR!

James Rado, Gerome Ragni, Galt MacDermot

GOSPEL READING

*Mark 16: 1 - 8*

Malcolm Haddad, Reader

LEADER: A reading from the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 16, verses 1 – 8.

HYMN NO. 588

“Alleluia”

*Joyful Alleluia*

*Cantor: Alleluia, Alleluia All: Alleluia, Alleluia*

*After the reading....*

LEADER: The Word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

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### THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*The image of water giving life – nurturing crops, sustaining life, and cleansing our bodies – cannot be missed in this part of the vigil. Nor is the ability of water to inflict death in drowning overlooked. Water brings both life and death. So also, there is death and life in Baptism, for in Baptism we die to sin and are raised to life. Baptism unites believers to Christ’s death and resurrection.*

VOLUNTARY

“Rondo Jubilate”

Douglas E. Wagner

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 232

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today” St. 4

*Easter Hymn*

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!*

*Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!*

*Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!*

*Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!*

*Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!*

*Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!*

*Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!*

*Praise eternal is God’s love, Alleluia!*

*Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!*

*Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

### THE SERVICE OF THE EUCHARIST

*The vigil climaxes in a celebration of the feast of the people of God. The risen Lord invites all to participate in the new life he brings by sharing the feast which he has prepared. We thus look forward to the great Messianic feast of the kingdom of God when the redeemed from every time and place “will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God” (Luke 13.29). The vigil thus celebrates what God has done, is doing, and will do.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

LEADER: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them 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 indeed right . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, praising you forevermore saying:

HYMN NO. 556

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” *Sanctus*  
*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.*  
*Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord’s name.  
Hosanna in the highest. (Repeat)*

LEADER: You are holy, O God of majesty . . . Great is the mystery of faith:

HYMN NO. 557

“Christ Has Died” *Memorial Acclamation*  
*Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

LEADER: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us . . . now and forever:

HYMN NO. 558

“Amen” *Amen*  
*Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.  
Amen, amen, amen, amen.*

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.**

HYMN NO. 603

“Lamb of God” *Agnus Dei*  
*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy, have mercy on us. (Repeat)*  
*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us, O grant us your peace.*

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

HYMN NO. 826

“Lift High the Cross” *Crucifer*  
**REFRAIN**  
*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*  
*Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **REFRAIN***  
*All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. **REFRAIN***

*O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. **REFRAIN***

*So shall our song of triumph ever be;  
praise to the Crucified for victory. **REFRAIN***

**BLESSING**

**LEADER:** As Christ loves us let us love one another deeply from the heart. Break the bread of new life where the world is still in pain. Christ is risen!

**ALL:** **He is risen, indeed!**

**LEADER:** Go in peace.

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** “In Resurrectione tua Christe” (Sung 3 times) *Taizé Chant*

**TRANSLATION:** In your resurrection, Christ, heaven and earth rejoice!

*In resurrectione tua Christe  
Coeli et terra laetentur  
In resurrectione tua Christe  
Coeli et terra laetentur*

**THE PEALING OF THE BELLS**

**BREAKING THE FAST**

*In the early Church, Christians gathered on the afternoon of Holy Saturday to pray and to confer the Sacrament of Baptism on catechumens—converts to Christianity who had spent Lent preparing to be received into the Church. This vigil lasted through the night until dawn on Easter Sunday, when the Alleluia was sung for the first time since the beginning of Lent, and the faithful—including the newly baptized—broke their 40-hour fast by receiving Communion. This would be a good time to have a meal or a snack with those people in your household.*

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy

Noel A. Piercy

Chapel Handbell Choir & First Church Ringers

Westminster Choir & Pilgrim Choir

Timpani & Percussion: Jesse Gerbasi; Bass: John Lenis

Cantor: Eliana Valente

Trumpet: James De La Garza, John Lambert

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