

# EASTER VIGIL

In keeping with the Jewish faith of Jesus, a new day begins at sunset rather than sunrise, and so tonight begins the celebration of Easter. We begin at 8:00 p.m. in darkness, symbolizing our separation from God and our yearning to be reunited with God. A new fire will be lit, symbolizing the hope of the Resurrection and the love of God.

*To participate fully in the vigil take a moment to gather a candle and a way to light it; a cup of water; a bell, drum, or noisemaker (this could be as simple as keys on a keyring); and elements for communion such as crackers or bread and juice.*

## Service of Light

### Greetings and Introduction

### Opening Prayer

### Lighting of the Paschal Flame

*The Light of Christ rises in glory.*

*Behold, the Light of Christ's rising, the pillar of fire we follow.*

### Spreading the Light

*All are invited to light a candle in their homes.*

## 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: 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!**

*(Continued on next page)*

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 or secure them in a safe place.*

**Service of Readings**

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

**Hymn** ..... “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

**Please note**

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

**Prayer**

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

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

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

**Prayer**

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

**Hymn** ..... “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

### **Proclamation of the Resurrection**

Leader: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: **Alleluia!**

**All: Alleluia!**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

**Epistle Reading**..... Romans 6:3–11

**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

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



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

## Reaffirmation of Baptism

### 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,  
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.**

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism and Act of Remembrance**

**Hymn.** . . . . . “Baptized in Water”

# **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

## **Invitation**

### **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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

### **Sanctus** (*spoken*)

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, hosanna in the highest.

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

### **Memorial Acclamation** (*spoken*)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will 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**

### **Communion Solo**

Let Us Break Bread Together . . . . . African American spiritual; arr. Phillip Keveren

### **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**

**Postlude** Thine Is the Glory. . . . . George Frideric Handel



We will gather online again at [www.bit.ly/FPCworship](http://www.bit.ly/FPCworship) for **Easter Sunday worship** at 11:00 a.m. The video of our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is available there throughout the week as well. We also make the Sunday services and sermons available via **podcast**: [www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast](http://www.bit.ly/FPCpodcast) and invite you to sign up to receive our sermons **by email**: [www.bit.ly/fpcsermons](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsermons)

On Wednesday mornings we gather online at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer via Zoom**. If you would like to join staff in this time of praying for Fourth Church members and those in need, please email Carol Allerton ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org)) for the Zoom information.

If you are looking for a **resource for personal meditation and prayer**, we invite you to use our daily devotions. You can receive the devotions in your inbox (sign up at [www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions)) or read them online ([www.fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://www.fourthchurch.org/devotions)), via Facebook ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](http://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)), or on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/fourthchicago](http://www.twitter.com/fourthchicago)).

As part of our commitment to caring for the most vulnerable, Fourth Church **Meals Ministry** is providing “to go” packaged meals for Sunday Night Supper and “to go” bag lunches for the Tuesday-through-Thursday Bag Lunch program. These are being served outside in the Cloister, so as to limit lines and in-person gatherings. \* The Chicago Lights **Social Service Center** is providing essential services on Tuesdays (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) and Wednesdays through Fridays (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) by offering “curbside” pickup of emergency clothing; hygiene items; and pre-assembled bags for scheduled Food Pantry appointments. See [www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org) for ways you can **order and ship items needed for these ministries**.

Our commitment to caring for those in need and remaining connected while apart depends on all of us. How can you help? **If you are available to reach out via phone or email** to those in our community who might be feeling isolated or lonely, please let our Pastoral Care Office know by contacting Carol Allerton ([callerton@fourthchurch.org](mailto:callerton@fourthchurch.org)). \* If you are able to help our Benevolent Guild **sew face masks** for health professionals and others providing essential services, please contact Nanette Sawyer ([nsawyer@fourthchurch.org](mailto:nsawyer@fourthchurch.org)).

**Ensure you receive the latest updates** from Fourth Church by adding your email address to our distribution list. Simply sign up at [www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://www.bit.ly/newsfromfpc)

As a connectional community committed to living out our care for one another and remaining together while apart, **we very much we want to hear from you!** Our pastors, Deacons, Stephen Ministers, and other volunteers are available to connect with you by phone and email. Please let us know by contacting our Pastoral Care Office (*callerton@fourthchurch.org*)—

- ▶ **if you are—or someone you know is—feeling isolated, lonely, anxious, or sick**
- ▶ **if you are a medical professional or are a provider of essential services**, as we want to care for you as well in what we know are difficult days for you and your colleagues
- ▶ **if you have a prayer request**; Dave Handley (*dhandley@fourthchurch.org*), our Interim Minister for Pastoral Care, is receiving these requests as part of our Morning Prayer and Deacon Prayer Ministries
- ▶ **If you would like to talk to a pastor**, please call the church (312.787.4570) and your request will be forwarded to someone on the pastoral staff. If you would like to be **in phone contact with a Stephen Minister**, please leave a confidential message at 312.573.3365 or contact Dave Handley (*dhandley@fourthchurch.org*).
- ▶ **If you would like to explore options for tele-therapy** with our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being, the Center invites you to call them at 312.787.2729, ext 2260.

In this time while we are not in the same place, we continue to explore new opportunities for all of us to be community and church. ✱ Easter **Sunday School lessons and crafts** to do at home are posted at [www.bit.ly/fpcsundayschool](http://www.bit.ly/fpcsundayschool). ✱ Information about **online youth group** and **recently-home-from-college gatherings** is listed at [fourthchurch.org/youth](http://fourthchurch.org/youth). ✱ Details about connecting with various online **TwentiesThirties** opportunities are available from Joe Morrow (*jmorrow@fourthchurch.org*). ✱ Instructors in our **Center for Life and Learning** program for adults sixty and over are emailing assignments and leading some classes via Zoom. For details, email Susan Quaintance (*squaintance@fourthchurch.org*). ✱ **Chicago Lights Tutoring** staff are facilitating virtual relationships between mentors and students, supplying educational and engagement tools, and creating content for e-learning. ✱ Opportunities to join in a virtual **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is offered by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. online at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing)

Watch our **website** ([www.fourthchurch.org](http://www.fourthchurch.org)) for additional resources and ways to connect. We also encourage you to follow us on **Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/fourthchurch)) and **Instagram** ([www.instagram.com/fourthchurch](https://www.instagram.com/fourthchurch)) for news, updates, and glimpses of our life together while apart.

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## Worship Leaders

**Nanette Sawyer** Associate Pastor

**Lois Snavely** Seminary Intern

**Cole Seaton** Soloist

**John W. W. Sherer** Organist and Director of Music

**Andrea Sawyer-Kirksey** Liturgist

**Ken Gaines** Liturgist

**Jessica Wang** Liturgist

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*Words*—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. “Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!” words by Brian Wren, copyright © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. OneLicense.net. License A-712340.

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