

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 outside the church, in darkness, symbolizing our separation from God and our yearning to be reunited with God.
A new fire is lit, symbolizing the hope of the Resurrection and the love of God.

Service of Light

Greetings and Introduction

Leader: Grace and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Paschal Flame

Please note

Copyrighted musical pieces that we do not have permission to distribute online (but only to include in the printed order of worship) are not shown in this version of the bulletin.

Leader: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Processional and Litany of Saints

*Mindful that on Easter, heaven and earth grow a bit closer,
we call upon the memories of those people of faith who have gone before us.*

Entering the Church

Leader: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Upon knocking, the doors of the church open to symbolize the opening of Christ's tomb. We enter the Sanctuary in darkness. Please take your seats and await the passing of the Light of Christ.

Spreading the Light

Leader: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

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!**

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 mercy! To free those in bondage through the depth of Christ's love.
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 shadows of 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.
Amen.

**All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ our King is risen!**

Please extinguish your candles and pass them to the outer aisle.

Introduction of Handwashing

The First Presbyterian Church of Chicago's Liturgical Artist-in-Residence, Alexx Temeña, has developed a sacred practice based on the Passion week story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, telling them "go and do likewise."

You are welcome to take part in this sacred practice throughout the service by going to the part of the Sanctuary where Alexx and other liturgists are administering handwashing.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us.

All: It is right to give and receive love.

Leader: As water is poured onto our feet/hands, we proclaim a mystery of faith, "Ama, hindi ko kayang mag-isa" ("God, I cannot do this alone").

All: Christ is with us always, to the end of the age.

Service of Readings

Reading “The Story of Creation”
Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

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

Hymn “God Is Our Help, Refuge, and Strength”

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though
the mountains be toppled in the depths of the sea; though its waters rage
and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

All: God is our help, refuge, and strength. In troubling times, we will not fear.
God is our help, refuge, and strength. In troubling times, we will not fear.

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be overthrown;
God shall help it at the break of day.
The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

All: God is our help, refuge, and strength. In troubling times, we will not fear.
God is our help, refuge, and strength. In troubling times, we will not fear.

Leader: Come now and look upon the works of the Lord;
what awesome things God has done on earth.
It is the Lord who makes war to cease in all the world,
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I am exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

All: God is our help, refuge, and strength. In troubling times, we will not fear.
God is our help, refuge, and strength. In troubling times, we will not fear.

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

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

Reading “A New Heart and a New Spirit”
Ezekiel 36:24-28

Hymn.....“As Pants the Deer for Living Streams”

Reading.....“The Valley of the Dry Bones”
Ezekiel 37:1-14

Solo “Dry Bones” African American spiritual

The loud crash from the organ symbolizes the breaking of the tomb.

Proclamation of the Resurrection

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***Processional**

The congregation moves to the front of the Sanctuary during the hymn.

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

Prayer of the Day

Epistle Reading Romans 6:3

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 16:1–8

Selected Readings

For Grief *John O Donohue*

The Glad Surprise *Howard Thurman*

How the Light Comes *Jan Richardson*

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,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of 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 again to judge the living and the dead.

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.

*Thanksgiving for Baptism and Act of Remembrance

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Minister: As we prepare to come to the table of our Lord,
let us not be strangers to one another,
but family in Christ.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Minister: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Minister: Let us give thanks to God.

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

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 552

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 (*sung*) The Hymnal, 553

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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 "Up, Up My Heart with Gladness" Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord in the power of Christ's resurrection.
Alleluia! The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

People: Amen.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude Symphonie V. Charles-Marie Widor
Toccata

Worship Leaders

Joseph L. Morrow Associate Pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church

David Black Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

Lucy Forster-Smith Senior Associate Pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church

Cole Seaton Tenor Soloist

John W. W. Sherer Organist and Director of Music, Fourth Church

Regan Burke • Sylvia Christine • Kat Evans Lay Liturgists from First Church and Fourth Church

Dionne Jones • Louise Gram • Jerry Johnson

Colleen Mraz • Deborah Oberschelp • Kathi Rodak

Wendy Cordero Rugama • Solstice • Alexx Temeña

• *The projection light art in the sanctuary was created by Maddie Ma and Max Li* •

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