

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER



MARCH

31

2018

*This service brings us from the darkness of Good Friday
to the joy of resurrection.*

*We hear the stories of Genesis and Exodus
when God brought light out of darkness and led the people of
Israel through the desert by fire.*

*We light the new fire of Easter
and from there light the Paschal Candle.*

*On the candle are painted
the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha and omega.*

*In Revelation 21:6 the exalted Christ says
"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."*

We make a cross on the candle with "nails".

*We then process the candle into the darkened church
which represents the tomb, and light the candles inside.*

The light heralds the resurrection of Christ.

*Two members of our community will be baptised
following the tradition of the early church where the new converts,
the catechumens, were baptised at dawn on Easter Day.*

*The Paschal Candle stays lit for all services
during the fifty days of the Easter season
and is removed on Ascension Day.*

*We use it then for baptisms and funerals
as a link back to the Easter resurrection of Jesus.*

Candidates for baptism:

Jessica Ji

Dylan Williams

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

We gather outside.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when the gospel tells us Jesus passed over from death to life,
the Church invites her members throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of Jesus Christ.

By hearing the scriptures and celebrating his sacraments,
we share in his victory over death
and our hope to live with him for ever in God.

We light the fire.

Redeeming God, source of life and light,
you made this most holy night to shine with the brightness
of your one true light;

bleed this new fire, set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Paschal candle is marked and blessed.

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;
to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.

Amen.

By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ guard and keep us.

Amen.

The Paschal Candle is lit.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

*The Easter candle is carried in procession into the church,
and each time the procession stops:*

Cantor: Christ our light.

All: Thanks be to God.

*The congregation move into the pews lighting their candles;
the church remains in darkness.*

THE EXSULTET

arranged by Douglas Mews (1918-1993)

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now,
all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendour,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.
Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.
All you who stand near this marvellous and holy flame
pray with me to God the Almighty
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light.

Cantor: God's peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

Cantor: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Exsultet continues.

Fellow pilgrims on the Christian way,
let us now listen to the story
of how God saved the people of Israel
by mighty acts in their history, and in the fullness of time
came among us in Christ Jesus as our Redeemer.

READING

Genesis 1:1-8

Creation

PSALM 33:1-9

Chant: Dr. Boyce

Father God, Mother God, by the energy of creative love
you have brought all things into being,
continually creating and restoring us,
making us in your image.

We contemplate your creation:
the darkness of this night, the light of the dawn,
our birth in the waters,
our life sustained and transformed by you.
Mother God, Father God, we rest in your presence.

Amen.¹

READING

Exodus 14:21-31, 15:20-21

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

SONG OF MOSES

Setting: Robert Loretz

God of steadfast love, you delivered your chosen people
from slavery under Pharaoh,
open our eyes to see those still enslaved in our time
and to help them come to freedom
that the world might also be free.

Amen.

READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The valley of dry bones

¹ Jim Cotter, "Darkness Yielding"

SONG OF ISAIAH

Setting: Robert Loretz

Living God, by the Passover of your Son
you have brought us out of death into life;
bring new life to the dry bones of our world
and those we love.

Amen.

READING

Romans 6:3-11

God unlimited by mortal fear
or tomb's cold grip:
in the lingering dark
give us grace to know
your life triumphant,
your love undimmed
in the face of Jesus Christ,
the firstborn from the dead.

Amen.²

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to Mark,
chapter sixteen, beginning at verse one.

Mark 16:1-8

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Alleluia Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed, alleluia.

² *Steven Shakespeare*

HYMN

Candles are lit on the altar and the lights are turned on.

**The Day of Resurrection!
earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over
with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Christ in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth her song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ has now arisen,
our joy that hath no end.**

*Words: John of Damascus (c. 675-749);
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

Tune: Ellacombe (1), melody from 'Mainz Gesangbuch', 1833. TIS 361

BAPTISM

GOD'S CALL

The priest says:

E te whānau a te Karaiti,
God is love, God gives us life.
We love because God first loves us.
In baptism God declares that love;
in Christ God calls us to respond.

THE PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

Each candidate for baptism is presented individually by a sponsor:

I present *N* to be baptised
and made a member of the Body of Christ, the Church

The priest says:

From the beginning the Church has received believers by baptism. On the day when the apostles first preached the Gospel of Christ's resurrection, Peter urged his hearers 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus the Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God may call.'

Jessica, Dylan (*individually*)

How do you respond to this promise?

Candidate: I hear God's call and come for baptism.

The priest says to the candidates:

Do you turn away from what could separate you from God
and do you desire to know the love of God in your life?

The candidates reply:

I do.

The priest says:

Do you trust in Christ's victory
which brings forgiveness, freedom and life?

The candidates reply:

In faith I turn to Christ
my way, my truth, my life.

People:

May God keep you in the way you have chosen.

THE BAPTISM

The priest stands by the water for baptism, and says:

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

People:

whose promise endures for ever.

The priest prays:

We thank you God for your love in all creation,
especially for your gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you for your covenant with your people Israel;
through the Red Sea waters
you led them to freedom in the promised land.

In the waters of the Jordan
your Son was baptised by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Through the deep waters of death Jesus fulfilled his baptism.
He died to set us free
and was raised to be exalted Lord of all.

It is Christ who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

We thank you that through the waters of baptism you cleanse us, renew us by your Spirit and raise us to new life. In the new covenant we are made members of your Church and share in your eternal kingdom. Through your Holy Spirit, fulfil once more your promises in this water of rebirth, set apart in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!**

*The priest baptises each candidate for baptism,
by pouring water on the candidate, saying:*

Jessica / Dylan

I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**God receives you by baptism into the Church.
Child of God, blessed in the Spirit,
welcome to the family of Christ.**

The priest makes the sign of the cross on each of the baptised with oil, saying:

We sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

A lighted candle is given by the sponsor, who says:

Walk in the faith of Christ crucified and risen.
Shine with the light of Christ.

THE AFFIRMATION

The congregation, the newly baptised, stand to respond in these affirmations.

Praise to God who has given us life.

Blessed be God for the gift of love.

Praise to God who forgives our sin.

Blessed be God who sets us free.

Praise to God who kindles our faith.

Blessed be God, our strength, our hope.

The priest says to all those present who are baptised Christians:
Let us, the baptised, affirm that we commit our lives to Christ.

All respond:

Blessed be God, blessed be Jesus!

The priest then says to the newly baptized:

What is your faith?

They respond:

I believe and trust in God the Creator,
maker and sustainer of all things;
and in God the Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ;
and in God the Holy Spirit, giver of life and truth.
This is my faith.

Priest:

As a community of faith we rejoice at these baptisms
and will share with Jessica and Dylan
what we ourselves have received:
a delight in prayer, a love for the word of God,
a desire to follow the way of Christ, and food for the journey.

Jessica, Dylan you are now pilgrims with us.
May you grow in the Holy Spirit,
fulfil your ministry and follow Christ you whole life long.

**God of love,
we thank you for our calling to be disciples of Christ.
Help us to nurture these people in the faith we share.
May they grow to love, worship and serve you,
and bring life to the world. Amen.**

*The congregation are asperged (sprinkled with water)
as a sign of their baptism*

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

The peace of God be with you all.

In God's justice is our peace.

E te whanau, Christ calls us to live in unity.

We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

HYMN

**Wash, O God, our sons and daughters
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people,
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.**

**We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us; guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.**

**O how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honour!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!**

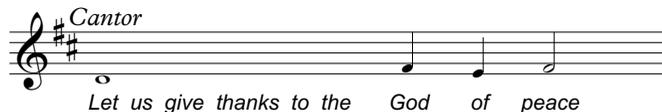
*Words: Ruth Duck (1947-) CP 35
Tune: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991). TIS 153*

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is right and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
God our Creator and Lover.

You make all things and call them good.

You love us into being, you form us in your image
and breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away, and our love fails,
your love remains steadfast.

You deliver us from captivity,

and bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey.

You set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:

4

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One, God of po - wer and might

2

Heav'n and Earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

3

Bless the One who comes in the pow'r of love. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
 By his baptism of suffering and death
 you give your church birth into a living hope.
 Raising Jesus from the dead, you make a new covenant with us,
 by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom.
 We who were no people are now your people,
 declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,
 who calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
 On the night when he gave himself up for us,
 he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
 gave it to his disciples, and said:
 Take, eat: this is my Body which is given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 When the supper was over he took the cup,
 gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said,
 Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new Covenant,
 which is shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins.
 Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me
 On the third day you raised him from the dead
 and revealed him to the women
 who came to the tomb to care for his body.
 On that day he was recognized by his disciples
 in the breaking of bread.

Break the bread for free-dom. Pour the wine for jus - tice.
 Ce - le - brate this meal for all the world, a
 meal of faith and hope, God's love, shared a - mong us. ³

And so, remembering these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, and we praise you and we bless you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in loving service to all the world, until all feast at your heavenly banquet. ⁴

Blessing and hon-our and glo - ry be Yours, here and
 ev-ry -where now and for - ev - er, A - men.

Please be seated.

³ *Words by Jenny Blood*

⁴ *Richard Fabian, St Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen.⁵**

BREAKING OF BREAD

We break this bread to share in the hope of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

⁵ NZPB, p. 181

THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kahui a te Atua,
tangohia enei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

*All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine;
there are gluten free wafers, just ask the serving priest.*

If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing.

Te Taro o te Ora. The bread of life.

Te Kapu o te Ora. The cup of salvation.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

This joyful Eastertide

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Risen Christ,
whom we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands;
the word of life
in whom our joy is complete:
send us out to declare your truth,
your unshakable faith
in the world you love.
Amen.**⁶

⁶ *Steven Shakespeare*

BLESSING

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!**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing: Alleluia!**

*Words: Compleat Psalmist, 1749
Tune: Easter Hymn, later form of melody from 'Lyra Davidica', 1708. TIS 362*

Deacon:

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land.

Amen. We go in the power of love. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is risen, Hallelujah

Michael CW Bell

The congregation is invited
to party with the Risen Christ
following the service.

EASTER DAY
1 April, 8am & 10am

*We invite you to keep
this copy of the Service
and take it home with you
to share with another member
of your family, or with a friend.*

*Music for Liturgical responses is by
Michael CW Bell*

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