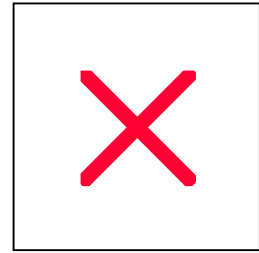


Holy Saturday The Great Vigil of Easter 11 April, 2020



7:30 pm Gathering

Welcome to all who have gathered with Nancy and me for this strange and wonderful meeting. During this gathering time, when friends will be joining us from far and near, we ask you to have some things ready. You will need with you where each of you is gathered a candle and a lighter or a match to set it alight to stand for the Paschal Candle, a small dish of water for the baptismal renewals, and a small piece of bread or cracker with honey on it, and a small beverage to share with whoever is with you, or for your own refreshment at the time of the agape or symbolic festive meal. I'll say this again later in this period of gathering for latecomers to our group.

8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

Territorial acknowledgement

We acknowledge that wherever we are, we, and our ancestors, came not as owners but as invaders, nor as invited guests but as presuming squatters, on the land of many first nations who lived in harmony with the land and the waters for many thousands of years before us. We acknowledge our inestimable debt to them for guarding these treasures, and we seek reconciliation with them to share peaceably in the care for the land and resources around us.

The Great Liturgy of Easter has four traditional parts that in the early church and still in some traditions lasted all night until the dawn of Easter Day. For centuries that has been much abbreviated to last from dusk until midnight on Saturday. At Holy Trinity the service sometimes began with the service of the New Fire, and sometimes with the Liturgy of the Word. This year, in the time of COVID-19, we have a much shortened liturgy.

1. The Liturgy of the Word— *in Ancient times as many as twelve passages were read from the Hebrew Scriptures, interspersed with psalms, canticles, and prayers. This year, we are using only one, the story of the Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea from Exodus, followed by a spiritual and prayer. Then we have a virtual procession, with an abbreviated Litany of the Saints, calling to God's Presence and ours representatives of our forbears in the faith, and those recently died.*

2. The Liturgy of Light— *we can scarcely light up newspapers and twigs in our kitchens to set off our fire alarms, but we can all light a candle to represent both the new light in Christ, and the Paschal Candle, recalling the pillar of fire leading the Israelites from bondage in Egypt to freedom. Here we will have a short form of the Easter Proclamations, that Christ is risen, the blessing of our candles, and the Gospel.*

3. The Renewal of Baptismal Vows— *usually we have baptisms at this time, but now we say a short Litany of Penitence and a Litany of Hope, and as we each hold up our cup of water, we each say a blessing over it, and sprinkle it on each other to renew our baptism.*

4. The Meal of Shared Friendship— *we cannot have our traditional Eucharist, but we can all share a symbolic meal of bread and drink in an agape, a love-feast (hence the honey, to make it all sweet). So have ready bread and honey, and a beverage to bless and share, or just be*

present as others do so. Then we can visit, though without Sherman's wonderful "pasqua" or creamy desert. All are welcome in these many places

1. The Liturgy of the Word

Leader.

Dear Friends, on this most holy night, when our Saviour Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of God. As we remember Christ's death and resurrection by hearing the divine word and celebrating the holy mysteries, we are confident that we shall share Christ's victory over death and live for ever in God.

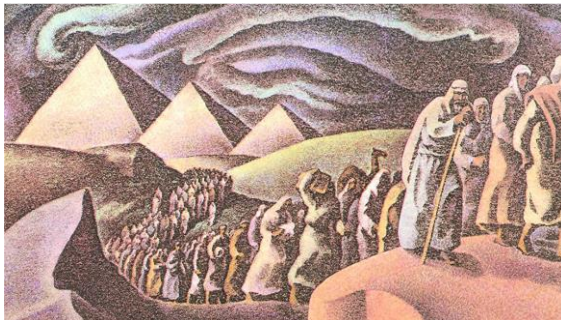
Let us now listen to the Word of God, recalling how God saved the people of Israel throughout history, and how, in the fullness of time, God's holy Child was sent to be our Redeemer.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

A Reading from the book of Exodus

As Pharaoh's army drew close, the Israelites looked back and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. Terrified, the Israelites cried out to Adonai. They said to Moses "Was it because there was a shortage of graves in Egypt that you have taken us off to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Isn't this the very thing we told you back in Egypt—'Leave us be, and let us serve the Egyptians?' Because it would have been better for us to serve in Egypt than perish in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm and witness the deliverance that your God is going to accomplish for



you; after today you are never going to lay eyes on those Egyptians again. Adonai will fight for you. All you have to do is keep calm."

Then Adonai said to Moses, "Why are you calling on me? Tell the Israelites to keep going, and you raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide it, so that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will follow in after them; in this way I will gain glory for myself over the Pharaoh and his whole army—chariots, his

charioteers, and all. The Egyptians shall know only too well that I am the Most High after I have gained glory for myself over the Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." The angel of God who was going before the Israelite host moved and took up station behind them; and the pillar of cloud also moved from in front of them to behind them. The cloud came between the armies of Egypt and Israel, bringing on darkness and early nightfall, so that contact was lost throughout the night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. Adonai drove the sea back by means of an easterly gale all night, turning that part of the sea into dry land because the waters were divided. The Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with the waters forming a wall for them on their left and on their right. All the Egyptians pursued headlong far into the sea—cavalry, chariots, and chariot drivers. In the morning watch Adonai looked down through the pillar of fire and cloud on the Egyptian army and threw it into a general panic. Adonai also

clogged their chariot wheels, so that they rolled only with great difficulty. Then the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for their God is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then Adonai said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea again, so that the water may recoil on the Egyptians, their chariots, and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea which, as dawn broke, returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians stampeded before it, God flung them into the sea. The recoiling waters engulfed the entire army of the Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea. Not one of the Egyptians survived. But the Israelites walked on dry land through the sea, with the waters forming a wall for them right and left. So it was that Adonai saved Israel that day from the Egyptians. And all Israel could see the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. Israel witnessed the great work which God performed against the Egyptians. So the people stood in awe of the Holy One and put their faith in Adonai and in Moses the servant of the Holy One....



Then Aaron's sister, the prophet Miriam, took up a tambourine; and all the women danced out after her with their tambourines. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Most High, who has triumphed gloriously; Adonai has hurled horse and rider into the sea!"

Hymn:

Spiritual: "When Israel was in Egypt's Land" ("Go Down Moses")

1. When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go;
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go;
Refrain Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
 Tell ol' Pharaoh, Let my people go!

2. The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go!
to lead the children of Israel through, let my people go!
Refrain Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
 Tell ol' Pharaoh, Let my people go!

3. Then Miriam shook her timbrel high, Let my people go!
And all the women danced and cried, Let my people go!
Refrain Go down, Miriam, way down in Egypt's land,
 Tell ol' Pharaoh, Let my people go!

4. Thus says our God, "I'll lead the way," let my people go!
"A fire by night, a cloud by day," Let my people go!
Refrain Go down, Miriam, way down in Egypt's land,
 Tell ol' Pharaoh, Let my people go!

5. Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go;

and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go.

Refrain Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
Tell ol' Pharaoh, Let my people go!

Let us pray.

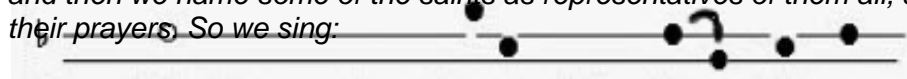
This is the night, God of Israel,
when first you saved our ancestors,
when the throng of Jacob's descendants, leaving slavery behind,
saw the mighty waters of the sea turn back so they could pass through.
We who keep vigil tonight have met death in the waters of baptism,
where you went before us, and in rising from the dead
you have enabled us to put on life itself, even your child Jesus. **Amen.**

The Litany of the Saints

In the Litany of the Saints we call into God's Presence and our own the representatives of our forbears in the faith, and those who have recently died.



As we begin, we sing Kyrie eleison, asking for God to have mercy, and we repeat each phrase, and then we name some of the saints as representatives of them all, and ask them to hold us in their prayers. So we sing:



One Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son *All* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son
Chris - te e - le - i - son Chris - te e - le - i - son
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son *All* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son

One Holy Mary, mother of Je-sus *All* Pray for us

One Saint Michael and all Holy Angels of God
All Pray for us

Saint Peter, Saint Paul, Saint Hildegard, and
Saint Teresa, **Pray for us**
Saint Stephen, Saint Priscilla, Saint Francis,
and Saint Hilda, **Pray for us**
Frederick Banting, Catherine Hamlin, John
Dossetor, Riva Gertstein, Pat Capponi and all
who have enriched our lives by medicine,



science, and learning, **Pray for us**

J. S. Bach, Pete Seeger, Emily Carr and all who have lifted our spirits with music and painting,
Pray for us

Louis Riel, Pauline Johnson, Norval Morrisseau and all First Nations peoples, **Pray for us**

All First Nation women and children who have died by rape and violence, **Pray for us**

Eugenie Balcomb and all homeless people of Toronto, **Pray for us**

Wilber and Barbara Sutherland and Margaret Avison, **Pray for us**

Gérard Beaumont and Oliver De Tienda, **Pray for us**

Helen Cram, Sheila File, and Ted and Elaine Hall from our community, **Pray for us**

Margaret Fraser, Kirsten McKnight, and Elliot Rose, **Pray for us**

Ron Panter, Malcolm Savage, and Pat Capponi, **Pray for us**

Matthew Dolmage, Ethan and Jan Plecash, and Gwenlyn Setterfield, **Pray for us**

Alice and Don Heap, Gabe West, John Digby, and Katie Davidson Niedoba, **Pray for us**

All those who live in our hearts whom now we name in silence . . . **Pray for us**

All the faithful departed, **Pray for us**

Let us pray together:

**Eternal our God, you have called women and men
of every nation, colour, and class
to be your saints in every age, and in our own time.
Like them, baptized in Jesus' name, like them, transformed;
so call us to serve you here and to share your glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

2. The Liturgy of Light

Although we cannot light the New Fire or the Paschal Candle in the Church at Holy Trinity, we can still light the candle in our homes and in our hearts as the symbol of Christ's rising as the resplendent and dawning sun, dispelling the night of despair.

The New Fire

So we light the candle we have ready, and say together:

All **O God, we share in the light of your glory through your Christ,
the light of the world.
Bless this New Fire, and inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration
and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.**

The Lighting of the Easter Candle

Now we lift the candle

One May the light of Christ rising in glory

All **Dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.**



And we sing, three times, higher each time, as we do when we carry the candle into the Church as the symbol of Christ's presence with us:

One The light of Christ
All **Thanks be to God**
The Paschal Proclamation

REJOICE, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our Life, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour! Radiant in the brightness of your Sun! Christ has conquered, glory fills you, darkness vanishes forever! Rejoice, O Mother Church, exult in glory, the risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people! . . .



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 of 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. . . .

Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead. Of this night scripture says: "This night will be as clear as the day, it will be my light, my joy." 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

Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night! May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning, Christ, the Morning Star who came back from the dead, and shed your peaceful light on all the world, your Christ who lives and rules, for ever and ever. *All: AMEN.*

The Collect for the Easter Vigil

Let us pray together
**Lord of the dawn,
revealed to women of courage and men of doubt,
take us from the empty places
where death holds power
to the rising of your love
as light for all the world;
in Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life. AMEN**

The Holy Gospel

One May God be with you

All **And also with you**

One The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala came with Mary, the mother of James, to inspect the tomb. Suddenly, there was a severe earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning, with garments white as snow. The guards shook with fear and fell down as though they were dead.

Then the angel spoke, addressing the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, who is no longer here. Jesus has been raised, exactly as it was foretold. Come and see the burial place. Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. That is the message I have for you.

The women hurried away from the tomb with awe and great joy and ran to carry the good news to the disciples.

Suddenly Jesus stood before them and said, "Shalom!" The women came up, embraced Jesus' feet and worshiped. At this, Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid! Go tell the disciples to go to Galilee, where they will see me."

One The Gospel of Christ!

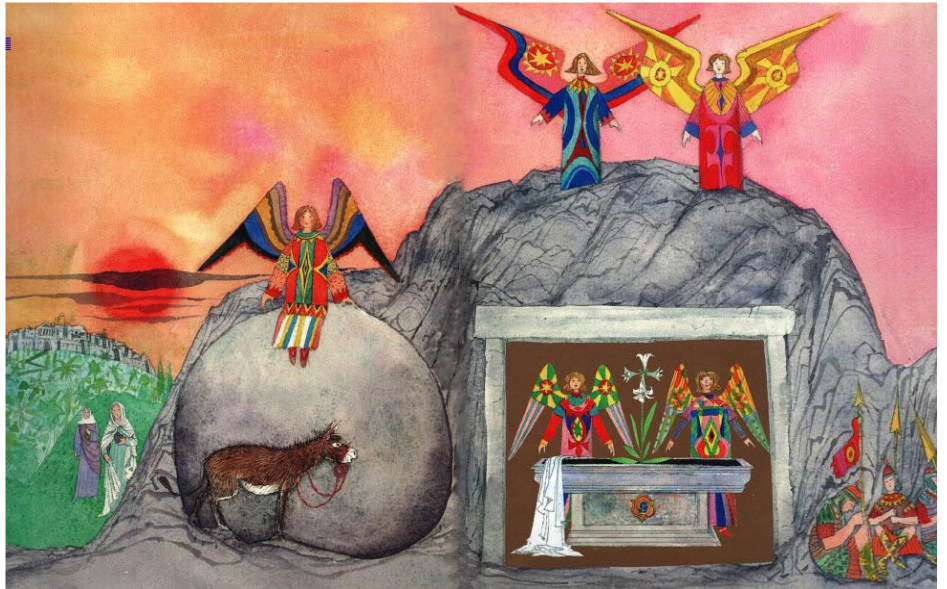
All **Praise to you, O Jesus Christ!**

Hymn This joyful Easter tide.

This joyful Easter tide, away with sin and sorrow
My love the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber,
till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

3. The Renewal of Baptismal Vows



Dear Friends, from earliest times the Church has welcomed new sisters and brothers into the family of God and the communion of saints on this night. Through the Easter mystery we have been buried with Christ, and in Baptism we have risen with Christ. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism.

One Sisters and brothers, do you renew the faith of your baptism?

All **Yes, we believe the Christian faith.**

The Blessing of the Water

We each take up the cup of water that we have prepared, and in our own words we offer a blessing over this water and we sprinkle a few drops on each other and on ourselves.

Acclamation

One Allelulia! Christ is risen!

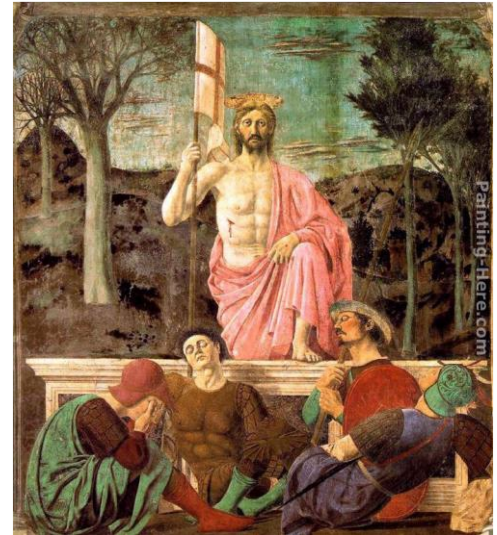
All **Christ is risen indeed! Allelulia!**

One Allelulia! Christ is risen!

All **Christ is risen indeed! Allelulia!**

One Allelulia! Christ is risen!

All **Christ is risen indeed! Allelulia!**



The Peace

One The Peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Hymn Now the green blade rises

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen,
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

4. The Meal of Shared Friendship

In the early Church Christians gathered for a shared meal of fellowship and communion (Jude 1:12). The shared meal used one of the Greek words for love: agape, so it stood for a love-feast, and was often followed by the Eucharist though by the end of the first century the two were drawing apart as separate services. The Agape involves a meal, fellowship, praise and worship opportunities – and time for prayer, and because we have already had a lot of that, we use here only a few elements

Intercessions

One At this Easter we give thanks for all of the blessings we know and cherish, in families and friends, both near and far, in neighbours and leaders, in front-line and rear-guard defenders of our health and safety. Praise God.

All Alleluia

One We pray for all of the sick with COVID-19 throughout the world, and especially in the countries and cities of our gathered community. We pray for caregivers and the gifts of healing. God in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer

One We pray for all who are troubled and anxious, all who are fearful and in distress, all children and the elderly, all who have lost work or income. God in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer

One We pray for peace in the world, harmony and concord among nations and their leaders, for love in our hearts, and for Easter hope in our lives. God in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.

One We add our own silent thanksgivings and intercessions
God in your mercy.

All Hear our prayer.



The Blessing of Bread and Drink

We hold up the honeyed bread and the drink that we have prepared.

One Taste and see that God is good. Let us bless God's gifts to us.

Now each in our own words blesses the bread and the drink.

One May this food and drink which we now share nourish our bodies and give us strength to carry our your plan for peace and justice and life. **Amen.**



As we have shared this bread
and tasted this sweet honey
As we have poured out this drink,
We give thanks for daily bread,
for the food that delights and nourishes us.
We pray for all who are hungry tonight
that their needs may be met
We give thanks for refreshing drink
And we pray for all who lack clean water to wash and drink
And we thank you for the Living Water
with which you enrich and transform our lives.

All **Amen**

All **O God in heaven, mother and father to us all, may your name be holy.
May your will come to be on earth as in heaven.
Give us the bread we need for today.
Forgive our sins as we forgive the sins of others.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
And deliver us from evil.
For the glorious realm of justice and peace is yours,
in the power of love, now and forever. Amen**

One Glory to God,...

All **whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God, from generation to generation
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. AMEN.**

Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Women, men, and angels say, Alleluia!
raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

2. Look, our Christ is triumphing: Alleluia!
Now, O death, where is thy sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died our souls to save: Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3. Hail, thou joy of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given! Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now: Alleluia!
Hail, the resurrection thou! Alleluia!

Happy Easter to all

Coordinator: Bill Whitla

Readers: Rachael Zacharias, Nancy Whitla

Hymn leaders: Alan Gasser, Emma Whitla, Becca Whitla

Intercessions: Susan Watson

Technical Wizard: Susie Henderson

