

D O N E G A L  
P R E S B Y T E R I A N  
C H U R C H

*founded prior to 1721*

March 30, 2024

Easter Vigil



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“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” - John 1:5 (NRSV)

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ORDER OF SERVICE

**Service of Light**

GREETING & INTRODUCTION

Grace and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord.

**And also with you.**

OPENING PRAYER

\*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and  
praise.  
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
4. Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

\*EASTER PROCLAMATION

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all  
creation around God’s throne! Jesus Christ our King is raised!  
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

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

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of  
your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness  
vanishes forever!

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

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!

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

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.

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

### Service of Readings

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### LESSONS FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Genesis 22:1-14

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup>He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup>Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup>He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup>And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in

a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide;" as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Psalm 46

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

<sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

*Selah*

<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup>The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Selah*

<sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

<sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>"Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth."

<sup>11</sup>The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Selah*

Ezekiel 36:24-28

<sup>24</sup>I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup>I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup>A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. <sup>28</sup>Then you shall live in the land that I

gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” #81

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.  
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.  
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation’s walls surrounded, thou may’st smile at all thy foes.
2. Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.
3. See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?  
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 6:3-11

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:1-12

<sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

EASTER PRAYER

Matt Randolph

**Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant**

\*HYMN “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #286

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27

\*RENUNCIATIONS

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**We do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying His Word and showing His love?

**We will, with God's help.**

\*PROFESSION            The Apostles' Creed, circa 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

**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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray...

\*REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS

*In an act of remembering, you will be invited to come forward to the baptismal font and dip your hand into the water. Grab one of the stones in the font and take it with you as a remembrance that you are a beloved child of God.*

**Eucharist**

\*HYMN            "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"            #500

1. Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart; Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.
2. Here share with us, in love divine, your body and your blood, that living bread, that heavenly wine be our immortal food.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,**

**rising you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

hymnal p. 35

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

from Psalm 103:1-2

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**and forget not all God's benefits.**

**Sending in God's Name**

\*HYMN            "Christ Is Alive!"            #246

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now.  
and touching every place and time.
3. In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.
4. Women and men, in age and youth,

can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy with justice, love, and praise.

\*PASTORAL BLESSING

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia, AMEN!**

\*POSTLUDE

*\*All those who are able may stand.*

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*The Tradition of the Great Vigil*

In the early centuries of the church, Holy Week was observed by a rigorous fast followed by a celebration of the mystery of Easter Eve and Easter Day in one unified liturgy. The Great Easter Vigil contained everything: lighting the new fire and the paschal (Christ) candle; reading and telling of the mighty acts of God; baptizing persons into the body of Christ; renewing baptismal vows for the entire community of faith; retelling the story of our Lord's dying and rising; and celebrating the Eucharist (the Lord's Supper) as a foretaste of the messianic banquet in the kingdom of God.

Originally, the Great Vigil continued through the night climaxing with the celebration of the resurrection as dawn approached. Like the dawning sun ending night, so Christ arose in the splendor of his glory, conquering forever the night of sin.

Clearly, the Great Vigil was the high point of the church's annual liturgical calendar. It was the greatest moment during the year in the life of the church. It was a great occasion when the church baptized the converts to the faith. The vast majority of baptisms were at this service.

The Great Vigil has both historic and symbolic roots in the Jewish Passover. So, many of the images in the vigil are drawn from the Old Testament. In the four liturgies of the vigil, we experience our passage from slavery to freedom, from sin to salvation, from death to life.<sup>1</sup>

*This evening's Easter Vigil*

The service that we celebrate this evening is based on the tradition of the Great Easter Vigil. It is however, a much more abbreviated service, celebrating three of the four liturgies. Nevertheless, it is a time to be attentive to the movement of light, to contemplate God's saving work in the world, and remember the claim that God has on each one of our lives through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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