

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



*We believe in sharing the experience of love and grace
by seeking relationship with God and one another.*

GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
Saturday, April 11, 2020

Great Vigil of Easter

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled. The Celebrant says

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then lights the Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire

<i>Celebrant</i>	The light of Christ.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

A Cantor now sings the Exsultet.

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 splendor,
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.

V: The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Cantor

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings, saying

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. The flood continued forty days

on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more. In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

Anthem: “The First Song of Isaiah”

J.N. White

Let us pray.

Silence

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Israel’s deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-15:1

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.” Then the

LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.” The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

Anthem: “Mi Chamocha”

M. Lipson

*Mi chamocha ba'eilim, Adonai?
Mi kamocha, ne'edar bakodesh, nora t'hilot, oseh feleh?*

*Malchut'cha ra'u vanecha bokai'ah yam lifnei Moshe;
Zeh Aili, anu v'amru.*

Adonai yimloch, Adonai yimloch l'olam va'ed.

Who is like You, Eternal One, among the gods that are worshipped?
Who is like you, Majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor doing wonders?

In our escape from the sea, Your children saw You display Your power. “This is my God!” they cried.

“The Eternal shall reign for ever and ever!”

Let us pray.
Silence

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Homily

Rev. Candice B. Frazer

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

<i>Celebrant</i>	Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
<i>People</i>	I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Announcements

Care Circles have formed and are up and running. Please contact the church if you have not heard from a Care Leader.

Giving is available on-line by going to our website and click on the "Give" link, or text the word "GIVE" to (833)901-2138 and follow as prompted.

Morning Prayer is offered on Facebook Livestream every day at 8am throughout the time of the pandemic.

Anthem: "O Sons and Daughters, Let us Sing"

O filii et filie

V. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

R. For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

R. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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 today our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant Lord hear our prayer;

People And let our cry come to you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

We give you thanks, O God, for revealing your Son Jesus Christ to us by the light of his resurrection: Grant that as we sing your glory at the close of this day, our joy may abound in the morning as we celebrate the Paschal mystery; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Nunc dimittis

J. Barnby

Lord, you now have set your servant free *

to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we
may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. Alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn 179: "Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say

1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say:
*2 Earth her joy con - fess - es, cloth - ing her for spring,
*3 Months in due suc - ces - sion, days of length - ening light,
4 Ma - ker and Re - deem - er, life and health of all,
5 Thou, of life the au - thor, death didst un - der - go,

1 hell to - day is van - quished, heaven is won to - day!
2 all fresh gifts re - turned with her re - turn - ing King;
3 hours and pass - ing mo - ments praise thee in their flight.
4 thou from heaven be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,
5 tread the path of dark - ness, sav - ing strength to show;

1 Lo! the dead is liv - ing, God for ev - er - more!
2 bloom in ev - ery mea - dow, leaves on ev - ery bough,
3 Bright - ness of the morn - ing, sky and fields and sea,
4 of the Fa - ther's God - head true and on - ly Son,
5 come then, true and faith - ful, now ful - fill thy word,

Refrain

“Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!” age to age shall say.

6 Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain;
 all that now is fallen raise to life again;
 show thy face in brightness, bid the nations see;
 bring again our daylight: day returns with thee!

Refrain

Words: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (540?-600?); tr. John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: *Fortunatus*, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth Rejoicing in the risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Voluntary: "Chorale Fantasy on 'Lasst uns erfreuen'"

F. Peeters

PRAYERS FOR ASCENSION

PARISHIONERS: The Keene Family, Tim Lewis, Dr. Pamela Gay, Ellen Brooks, Edith Crook, Al Cantrell, Mrs. Glenn Sylvest, Bill Wall, Andrea Cathey, Violet Monson, Betty Godbold, Sophie Xides, Joyce Hobbs, Frances Hill, Dan Hackett, Charles and Henrietta Hubbard, The Lewis Family, Lila Ashley Dryer, Caroline James, Sue Hicks

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EASTER FLOWERS 2020

Main Altar Flowers

Given in memory of

Thomas Jackson McLendon

IN MEMORY OF

Hugh Ackis
James & Ruby Alford
Mildred & Eddie Anderson
Dorothy Armstrong
Cadwalader & Ella Beale
Mildred Gaston Beale
Daniel Paul Brown
Gertrude Chambers
Thomas Chambers
Paul Copeland
Lillie Mae Cotton
Patricia Gayle Cotton
Thomas F. Darby
Dr. & Mrs. Jesse D. Derrick
Elisabeth & David Dunn
Elizabeth T. (Tootsie) Emmet
Sam Engelhardt, Jr.
Dr. Sam Engelhardt III
Sara Engelhardt
Grace Franklin

Vernon Franklin
Warren Gaston
Ella Frances Gill & Dr. Daniel
Gordon Gill
Grace Gladys Gill
Dr. Leigh Gill
Pat Trawick Guest
Joe Harwell
Minnie Lee & Jackson M.
Hobbie
Dexter C. Hobbs
Ruby Jo Isaac
Charlotte Rose Konrath
Milton Lewis
Pat Lewis
Ed Martin
Octavia Martin
Hazel Mims Mathis
Warner L. Mathis, Sr.
Tony & Wilma McCrary
Jackson McLendon

Melissa Moody
Harold Nicrosi
Addie Pickard
Paul Pickard
Abbie Searcy Rau
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse M.
Rawlings, Jr.
Ray D. Rawlings
Anne Redfield
John Redfield
Alice Derrick Reynolds
James Donald Reynolds
Norvelle Lee Richardson
Mike Rosato
Minnie Hobbie
Richardson St. John
Raymond St. John
Ernestine Taylor
Walter Turner
Will Turner
Rev. Mark Waldo

IN THANKSGIVING FOR

Ella Reese Bailey
Charlotte Elizabeth Bailey
John Marshal Bailey
Lucy McDonald Bamman
Garrett Douglas Bamman
Giovanna Barragan
Reece Barragan
Anna Brittan Bradford
Beckett Bradford
Michael J. Colon

Karen Conner
Adaline & Isabel Dunn
Reese, Jennifer & Darci
Dunn
John & David Ellis and
Families
Riley Harrison
Claire Harrison
John Harrison
Dexter C. Hobbs, Jr.
Dexter C. Hobbs III
Laura Hobbs

Marcie Hobbs
Benton Hughes
William Hughes III
Jefferson W. Mathis
Peyton S. Mathis IV
Helen Taylor
Pete Taylor, Jr.
Turner Taylor
The Waldo Children

IN HONOR OF

Ann Carmichael
Children of Emily Caruso
Church of the Ascension Members
Joyce C. Hobbs
Martha Hughes

Speck Hughes
The Lewis Johnson
Family
Peyton S. Mathis III
Mary Anne Martin
Bettie Rosato

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