



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Children's Easter Vigil
St. George's
Episcopal Church

April 11, 2020

Service for Distance Worship

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Regardless of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
or tradition.

Children's Easter Vigil

April 11, 2020

About this service: On this holy night, we gather to celebrate that the Light of Christ has come into the world. This is the best news of all: death is not the most powerful thing in the world: God's love is! We call this Good News "the Gospel" and it's the reason that we celebrate even when life seems like it is its very darkest. Although we cannot gather physically together this year, we believe that Christ is with us in his word and by his Spirit is drawing us together as one before God.

We invite you to dim the lights in the room where you are gathered. You are invited to participate by placing a candle (or a candle for each person) near you as well as something to light it. We also invite you to prepare something delicious to enjoy together after this service.

Welcome and Greetings

Hecti Musa, Director of Children and Youth Formation

Officiant: 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 Paschal Candle is a remembrance to us that Jesus has died, but is risen.

Officiant: Please repeat after me: God, we share in your light.

All: God, we share in your light.

Christ, yesterday and today. The beginning and the end. The Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to Christ. And all ages. To Him be glory and power. Through every age, forever. **Amen.**

A candle is lit.

Officiant: Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again. Loving God, accept the light of this candle. May your light always dispel the darkness of the night.

All: Amen.

The following responses are chanted:

Officiant: The Light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: The Light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: The Light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 28:1 - 10 (CEB)

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you."

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Light of Christ *All sing*

The light of Christ has come into the world, the light of Christ has come into the world. The light of Christ has come into our hearts, the light of Christ has come into our hearts.

Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 60:19 (CEB)

The sun will no longer be your light by day,
nor will the moon shine for illumination by night.
The Lord will be your everlasting light;
your God will be your glory.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

At this time you are all invited to light your candles. We will take a moment of silence and reflection. In this time, you may give thanks to God for being with us.

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

Ephesians 5:8 - 10 (CEB)

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. Therefore, test everything to see what's pleasing to the Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

This Little Light of Mine *All Sing*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine...

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...

All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine...

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

Officiant: Let us boldly proclaim the Easter message. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

All: The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you!

You may now greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also, with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: 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 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.

Blessing *Adapted from Prayerscapes - Easter Prayers and Blessings*

Clergy: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us this day and always.

May our loved ones and our communities be blessed as we gather to celebrate together.

May your love be shared amongst us as we enjoy the gift of fellowship.

May we remember to give out the grace and forgiveness that you have freely given us,

And may we always give thanks for your light and your love.

All: Amen

God is so Good *All Sing*

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, he's so good to me.

God gives us light, God gives us light, God gives us light, he's so good to me.

Dismissal

Officiant: Go in peace to love, and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Thank you for joining us for this service! Now would be a wonderful time to enjoy something delicious to eat and drink!

Tomorrow we will continue our Easter observance at St. George's. For our children, we will have a 9am Zoom gathering where we will reflect on the significance of Easter and do a fun Easter craft. Please check our webpage www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net for the full schedule and how to access these distance worship and fellowship events for all ages.

St. George's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan,
Associate Rector

905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540.373.4133 (telephone)
540.374.0923 (fax)
stgeorgesepiscopal.net

For Pastoral Emergencies: 540.361.8573
general inquiries:
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net
