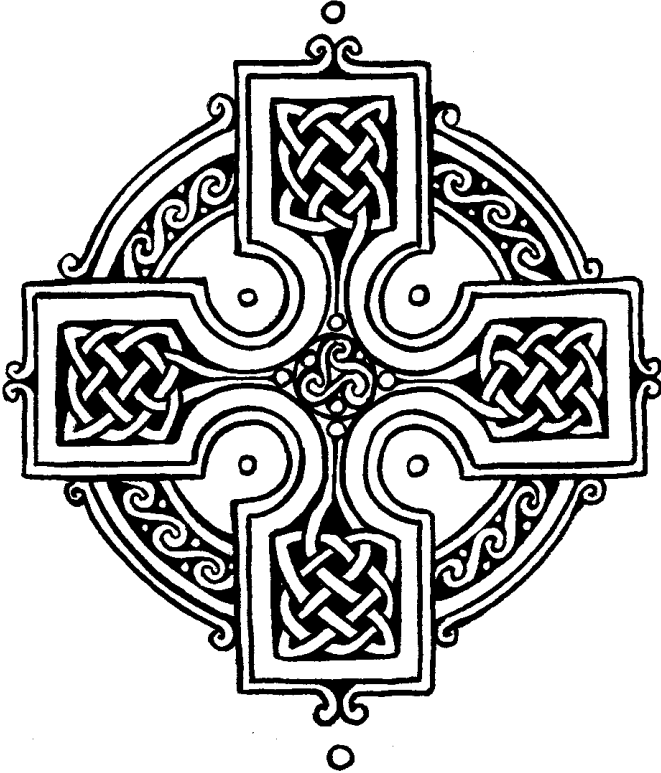


**The Great Vigil of Easter
A Collaborative Celebration**



May Christ, the Morning Star, rising from the grave, shed light on the whole human race. And we pray, O God: preserve and protect your church, giving us peace, in this time and forever. Amen.

*The Campus of Downtown Churches:
Cathedral of the Beloved, First United Methodist Church,
Price Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church,
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ,
and Zion Lutheran Church*



FIRE

At St. Stephen's we gather to witness the kindling of the new fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle.

Words of Invitation and Opening Prayers

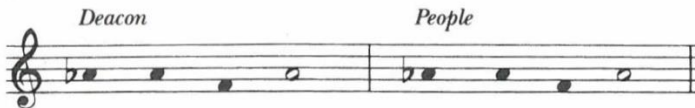
Sanctifying the New Fire

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.**

Sharing the Light of Christ: The Exultet, sung by Craig Smith
Please take a flashlight from the basket and light one to light up the night with the light of Christ.

"The light of Christ, thanks be to God."

Versicle and Response: "The Light of Christ"



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Sharing the Light of Christ

Please take a flashlight and join in lighting up the night.

Processing the light of Christ

Walking and singing our way to Price Memorial AME Zion.

Prayer when light is brought to front of sanctuary:

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son, free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



STORY

In the sanctuary of Price Memorial AME Zion, we remember the stories of salvation.

Invitation: Dear friends in Christ, let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history and in the fullness of time, sent his own Son to be our Redeemer. **Amen.**

First Reading: The Story of Creation,
adapted from James Wheldon Johnson's
"God's Trombones", Genesis 1:1—2:2a

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.



Collect

A moment of silence

Second Reading:

Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea, Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21



Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Collect

A moment of silence

Third Reading:

The Valley of Dry Bones *adapted
from the New Living Translation,
Ezekiel 37: 1-14*

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Collect

A moment of silence



Processing the light of Christ to First United Methodist Church



WATER

Renewing our Baptismal Vows at First United Methodist

Prayer

The Baptismal Covenant

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe.

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe.

Presider: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe.

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

All: I will, with God's help.

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

All: I will, with God's help.

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

All: I will, with God's help.

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

All: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

All: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

All: I will, with God's help.

Thanksgiving over the water

Presider: Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All: Who keeps his promise for ever.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

*During prayer over the water, when Presider says, "Saving God,"
All respond: "give us life."*

Presider sprinkles the people with water from the font as a reminder that it was through our baptism that we entered in Christ's fellowship, the Church.

Presiders concludes with:

We thank you, Almighty God, for our baptism into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Our Easter Acclamation:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

ALL: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Join in ringing bells as we proclaim our joy, process the light of Christ to Zion.



FEAST

In the sanctuary of Zion Lutheran Church, we gather around God's table

Our Easter Acclamation:

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Easter Gospel: John 20:1-18

Prayer at the Table:

Please add your voices when the Presider asks for our collective prayers for:

things in nature;

places in our community;

people who have strengthened our faith;

the new life and resurrection hope dwell deep within us.

Presiders concludes with:

We praise you, all-holy God,
today, tomorrow, and forever.

All: Amen.

Praying together:

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.

Distribution of Communion
Communion Song:

God Welcomes All

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first system of musical notation is for the first line of the song. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;".

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second system of musical notation is for the second line of the song. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.".

Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia, alleluia!
ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

A Note from *The Campus of Downtown Churches*

This year as we gather around the Paschal fire, we stand in a liminal space, God is making all things new. As a downtown community of congregations, God is calling us out of our silos to shine the light of Christ into the world. It is a season that asks us to consider how we can we collectively proclaim that love is stronger than death to a community and a nation that is still in grief. Our light is brighter together. We are better together. This year's Easter vigil is one opportunity to bring the light of Christ outside of our siloed doors. The disciples were not to called to keep Gods love to themselves and either are we.

Many opportunities will follow and are already happening: A collaborative youth group, shared laundry love, weekday meals serving our community. How could what we already be doing be interwoven into a larger whole? This is the dream and discernment of being a downtown campus. A living organism of people and places going out to be with one another and God's people wherever we find ourselves.

Participants in our Easter Vigil include:

The Rev. Jennifer Gregg - Cathedral of the Beloved; Rev. Mike Denton - United Church of Christ; The Rev. Nina Pooley - St. Stephen's Episcopal Church; Rev. Joel Bergeland - Zion Lutheran Church; Rev. Stephen Dale - First United Methodist; Becky Crane - United Church of Christ Pastors Connie and Don Harris - Price Memorial AME Zion

Soloist: Craig Smith

Sacristans: Ginny Messina and Kim Swarbrick.

Reception hosted by members of Zion Lutheran and members of Cathedral of the Beloved.