

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 7:30 PM
St. Paul's on the Green, Norwalk, Connecticut
60 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851

stpaulsnorwalk.org

info@stpaulsnorwalk.org

Livestream available at facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos

The liturgy begins in silence and total darkness.

THE LIGHTING OF THE NEW FIRE

The Celebrant and other ministers gather around the fire which has been newly kindled.

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our brother Jesus passed over from death to life, all God's beloved, throughout the world gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lamb, in which, through Scripture and Sacrament, we are baptized again in Christ's victory over death.

The Celebrant blesses the fire.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, through Christ 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 desire, that with pure minds and hearts we may attain the everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE PROCESSION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

THE STORY OF CREATION

Proverbs 8:22-36, read by Gail Bindley-Taylor

Reader: The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord; but those who miss me injure themselves.'

Chant: Olam chesed yibaneh

I will build this world from love,
and you must build this world from love,
and if we build this world from love,
then God will build this world from love.

setting: Hebrew chant

The Celebrant prays a Collect.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21, told by Natalie Kikkenborg

Hymn: The World is about to Turn

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

setting: Rabbi Menachem Creditor

The Celebrant prays a Collect.

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37:1-14, read by Javier Galitó-Cava

Reader: The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Hymn: Breathe on me, Breath of God

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.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die;
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

words: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)
music: *Nova Vita*, Lister R. Pearce (1885-1969)

The Celebrant prays a Collect.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Daniel Simons
Priest-in-Charge

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The Celebrant prays over the water.

Celebrant: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **I do.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Creator?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

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

People: **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.**

*(*Here, "catholic" means universal. It refers to the belief that the message of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus is a "universal" one that the Church proclaims to everyone, everywhere and always.)*

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.**

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

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you cherish the works of Creation, and protect the beauty and integrity of all living things?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Celebrant prays a concluding collect.

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant bids the Easter acclamation ("Alleluia! Christ is risen!") three times, and the organ responds.

After the third bidding, the people respond:

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

THE BLESSING

Celebrant: The wonder and wildness of God, who shakes heaven and earth, whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us, bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the Gospel.

People: **AMEN.**