



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

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

April 3, 2021

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 3, 2021

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 eat together to celebrate 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 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.

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.

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.

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 Gospel according to Mark

Mark 16:1 - 8 (CEB)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Children's Homily

Rev. Areeta

Prayers for the World

God of love and comfort
who gave his only Son so we can have life forever,
you love and care for us, even when we are sick;
as Jesus took care of those who were sick,
you call us to also care for and comfort the sick;
help us to follow your way of love this Easter
and remember all who are in need, and care for all people **Amen.**

Living God,
who sees all the people of the world as your children;
help those who are teased, made to feel alone, and pushed around;
protect them from harm and
keep them safe in your love.
Help the bullies among us to remember it is never too late to change from being a bully into a friend.
Amen.

O God, Creator of heaven and earth,
In our beginning, you told us to care for your creation;
open our eyes to see the goodness of the earth;
teach our hearts to respect all creation as a gift from you;
and shape our lives to behave in ways that are loving
toward all creatures great and small,
for you, God, made them all. **Amen.**

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

Thank you and Announcements

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 10 am Zoom gathering where we will reflect on the significance of Easter, and at 11:30 am we will offer an Easter basket pick up from the graveyard of the church. Please check our website www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net for the full schedule and how to access these.

Serving Today

Clergy:

The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan

Musicians:

Grace Rollins

James Rollins

Readers:

Sandi Davis

Miriam Kuykendall

Anna Maxfield

Adam James Tankersley

St. George's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr., Rector

The Rev. Areeta D. Bridgemohan,
Associate Rector

The Rev. William S. Dickinson, Curate

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
