
Liturgy of the Light

April 8, 2023



The Liturgy of the Light service celebrates the Light of Christ come into the world.

The service is prepared by the children, for the children.



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Holy Saturday

April 8, 2023

The mission of the Church is to
restore all people to unity with God
and each other in Christ.
- Book of Common Prayer, pg. 855

Welcome to St. George's!



Whether you are worshiping online or in person, we are glad you are here.

Office Hours

Please note our office is closed April 10 -11. If you have a pastoral emergency and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573.

Connect with Us

We'd love to get to know you and help get you connected with our parish ministries, formation, and fellowship groups.



Visit StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/connect or scan the QR code and we'll be in touch. You can also fill out the Newcomer Card in your pew and drop it in the offering plate.

Giving

We believe in a generous, loving, and giving God. We invite our church family to embrace generosity as a lifelong, joyful, transforming, and liberating response to God's call to us. Thank you for your generous support.

Note that cash or offerings designated "Good Friday Offering" will be given to the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Loose and offerings designated "Easter Offering" will be split between our Haiti Mission Partners and LUCHA Ministries.



You can make a financial gift:

- **In-person:** place gift in collection plate in the aisle.
- **Online - one-time or recurring:** StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/giving. Or scan the QR code.
- **Text:** Send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133)

You can also mail a check to the church office:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404 *Thank you!*

Worship and Formation

No matter where you are on your faith journey, there's a place for you here.

Regular Worship Schedule (Sept - May) Sundays:

- **7:45 am:** Holy Eucharist (Communion), Rite I, spoken
- **9:00 am:** Holy Eucharist with Jazz Band and Choir. This service is also livestreamed via YouTube Live and posted to Facebook after the service ends.
- **11:15 am:** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with organ and choir.
- **5:30 pm:** Holy Eucharist with Celtic Evensong, with Celtic ensemble
- **8:00 pm:** Sung Compline also live streamed on our Compline Facebook page.

Wednesdays:

12 pm: Rite II Eucharist with healing prayer

Daily Office:

The Daily office (Morning and Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer) is offered on Zoom and led by a group of lay persons on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8 am and 5:30 pm. All are welcome.
Meeting ID: 890 4918 9545
Passcode: 638538
Dial in: +1 301 715 8592

Formation for All Ages Resumes Apr 16 Adults

Throughout the year, we have a number of different ways for adults to deepen their understanding of scripture, faith, and more. Sundays at 10 am, we offer adult forums on contemporary topics, featuring guest speakers. Additionally, we have Bible studies and other discussion groups on special topics.

Young Adults (18 - 45)

Our Young Adult Missioner, Rev. Ethan Lowery leads a range of activities - both spiritual and social for college age students and older. To get involved, contact Rev. Ethan at: missioner@thehousefxbg.org.

Youth (6th - 12th Grade)

Youth group meets on 1st and 3rd Sundays from 5 - 7 pm for dinner, community and fun. Contact Fr. Will (will.dickinson@stgeorgesepiscopal.net) to learn more.

Youth Café

Sunday mornings at 10 am, youth in grades 6-8 and grades 9-12 meet with adult leaders and head to a nearby café or a room at church for conversation and treats.

Children (pre-K - 5th grade)

Sundays at 10 am, children gather to learn about our story as the people of God.

The Liturgy of the Light

inspired by the red Book of Common
Prayer (BCP)

April 8, 2023

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

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.

Please repeat after me:

God, we share in your light.

All: God, we share in your light.

The taper is lit.

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.**

The Paschal Candle is lit from the taper.

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Loving God, accept this Easter Candle.

May it always dispel the darkness of the night. **Amen.**

Procession

All process into the large side of Sydnor Hall, chanting as we follow the Paschal Candle.

The Light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

All are seated for the singing of the Exsultet, an ancient chant of praise inspired by the light of Christ. The Exsultet is sung by cantors, the words are provided to help you focus.

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.

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.**

Spreading the Light

The Light of the Risen Christ has come into the World. He calls us each by name to come and share the light.

Each child will be called forward by clergy to receive a candle lit from the Paschal Candle and return to their seat.

Silent reflection

The First Reading

Isaiah 60:19 *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Song: "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 the world.

The light of Christ has come into our hearts,

the light of Christ has come into our hearts.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8 - 10 *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light-- for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Song: "This little light of mine"

During the singing, each child will walk their candle back to the Paschal Candle.

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 . . .

Celebrant: May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Easter Gospel

Matthew 28:1 - 10 *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

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."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant: Let us boldly proclaim the Easter message.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

The people share a sign of peace with one another.

Presentation of Gifts

Celebrant: All you have made is good. Your love continues for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord is with us.

People: God's Spirit is here.

The Celebrant continues

Loving God, you are always thinking about your people. You never forget us. You sent your Son, Jesus, who gave his life for us and who came to forgive us and taught us to forgive each other.

On the very night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Together

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Look with kindness, O God, on your people gathered here before you. Send forth the power of your Spirit so that these gifts may become for us the Body and Blood of your beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ, in whom we have become your own.

God of love, Spirit of compassion, bless us and this bread and wine. May this meal be food and drink for our journey - renewing, sustaining, and making us whole. When we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we experience Jesus in our midst.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

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.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. The table is ready. All are welcome. Come, for the feast is spread.

All Who Seek a Closer Relationship with God are Invited to Receive Communion

The clergy will give instructions about receiving communion.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Holy God, we thank you for feeding us at your table. We have been your guests, now help us to become hosts and welcome others into your family. You have given us your body and blood, now help us remember that we are your body, your hands and heart on earth. Send us forth to serve the world in your name. Amen

Blessing

Song: "You are the vine"

[Refrain]

You are the vine, we are the branches

Keep us abiding in you. (sing twice)

And we'll go (echo)

and we'll go in your love

And we'll go (echo)

in your name

That that world will surely know that you

Have the power to heal and to save.

[Refrain]

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Song: "Marching in the light of God"

We are marching in the Light of God (4x)

We are marching, marching, in the light of God,

we are marching in the light of God.

After the service, the children are invited to choose a candle to take home.



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Taize Worship – Tuesday, April 4, 7 pm:

Also livestreamed on Facebook Live

Maundy Thursday – April 6 at 7 pm:

With footwashing and stripping of the altar

Good Friday – April 7

12 pm: Service with sermon (livestreamed on YouTube Live)

2 pm: Micah Ministries Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

7 pm: Sung passion, debuting a new composition by John H. Vreeland (livestreamed on YouTube Live)

Holy Saturday – April 8

8:30 am: Morning Prayer in our Nave (also livestreamed on Facebook Live)

5 pm: Liturgy of the Light in Sydnor Hall – for children, ages 3 and up.

8 pm: The Great Easter Vigil in the Nave.

Easter Sunday, April 9

6:30 am: Micah Sunrise Service at Fredericksburg Fairgrounds

7:45 am, 9 am (also on YouTube Live), 11:15 am, 5:30 pm:

Joyful Easter Eucharist

10:15 am: Our Easter Egg Hunt returns!

1-3 years: Market Square

4-7 years: Renwick Lawn (George Street)

8-11 years: Graveyard

Scan to
learn more



Mark Your Calendars

For the latest news and events,
sign up for our weekly e-newsletter,
The St. Georgian:
StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/enews

Special Thanks to Our Flower Guild

The beautiful flowers you see are thanks to the loving artistry and ministry of our flower guild. We hope you enjoy these blooms as a living symbol of resurrection. As a special thank you, those who donated to our Gratitude Offering are invited to take home an Easter Lily following the 11:15 am service on Easter Sunday.

Easter Egg Hunt Returns!

Our beloved Annual Easter Egg Hunt is back Easter Sunday at 10:15 am. A big thank you to all of our volunteers helping stuff and hide the eggs. 1-3 years search in Market Square; 4-7 years search Renwick Courtyard, and 8-11 years search our Graveyard.

Youth Confirmation Classes Coming!

Classes for youth (13 and up) interested in confirmation begin April 16 during the Formation Hour at 10 am and continue for 7 weeks, taught by Fr. Will and some guest stars. We'll explore owning our own faith, what role church might play in our lives as we mature. These classes prepare youth for our bishop visitation on May 7 and continue until the end of the program year. Contact Fr. Will to sign up!

Rogation Sunday: May 14

We will pray for Mother Earth and invite you to bring garden tools, seeds, or plants to be blessed at morning worship services.

Concert Series Continues: April 16

Our monthly concert series continues on Sunday, April 16 at 3 pm with music by Laurie Rose Griffith and Peter Mealy with John and Mary Vreeland. Don't miss this eclectic mix of classics, including Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Paul Simon, and more, plus original music. The concert is free with donations accepted at the door.

Shrine Mont Sunday - April 30

Join us at the Adult Forum on Sunday, April 30 at 10:15 am (in person or on Zoom) as we unveil the theme for this year's Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont! Registrations open that day, and everyone who registers and pays in full on Sunday will be entered into a drawing for one free registration for our weekend (October 6-8). Any questions, please contact Danielle Davis at danielle@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Ascension Day Service May 18, 7 pm

Join us at 7 pm on Thursday, May 18 for a regional celebration of Christ's Ascension with worship and Holy Eucharist.

Summer Schedule Resumes May 28

On Sunday, May 28 - Pentecost Sunday - we will shift to our "summer schedule" with services at 7:45 am, 10 am, and 5:30 pm. Our Compline service takes a break as well as Sunday school classes.

Outdoor Worship and Parish Picnic

We will hold our 10 am service on June 4 outside, weather permitting, at Hurkamp Park. More information to come.

Get Involved

Questions? Or would you like to get connected with clergy? Please contact the church office: 540.373.4133
office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

How are you called to serve?

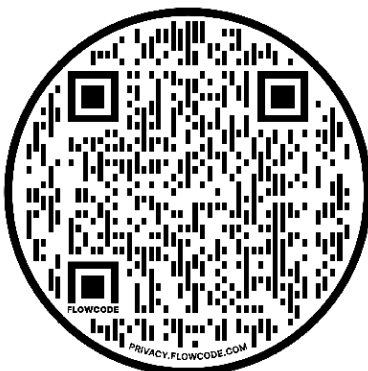
Serving builds our parish and local community as we give thanks to God and follow Christ's example.

There are a number of ways you can get involved at St. George's:

- Worship leaders and support teams
- Music ministries (singers and instrumentalists)
- The Table - our market style food pantry that shares fresh produce with those experiencing food insecurity
- Media and technical support for livestream services
- Extending care and prayer for church members
- Volunteering with our children and youth ministries

Want to learn more?

Contact the church office (540.373.4133, office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net), visit: www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/share, or scan the QR code below.



Pastoral Care

If you have a pastoral care emergency (death, serious illness, job loss) and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573 to reach clergy on call.

Pastoral Care at St. George's is a ministry of the clergy and the laity. By walking with each other through times of joy and times of sorrow, we show the love of Christ to all.

Need prayer? We offer an email prayer chain as well as an intercessory prayer group. Our One Body Response Team (OBRT) offers prayers, sends cards, and responds to other needs as able. Request prayers online (stgeorgesepiscopal.net/prayer) or by contacting the church office.

Prayer Quilts and Prayer Shawls are available upon request. These mantles of healing and comfort are made by our ministry teams and prayers are said for the recipient in the making of each shawl or quilt.

We also offer a "Writing our Way to Wholeness" group on Zoom for anyone experiencing loss. For more information and to enroll contact our church office (540.373.4133; office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

If you need support or encouragement, please consider reaching out to our church office (540.373.4133; office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net).

Can you pray, knit, quilt, write, or cook? Contact the church office or speak to a member of clergy about sharing your gifts with our pastoral care ministries.



Contact Staff

**For pastoral emergencies:
540.361.8573**

the Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.
Rector
joe.hensley@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

Laurel E. Loch
Chief of Staff
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the Rev. William S. Dickinson
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Kevin Carey
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the Rev. Dr. Rosemary Beales
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Barbara Miller-Richards
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the Rev. Ethan Lowery
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Preschool Director
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Vestry

If you have questions or concerns,
please reach out to our Vestry
(elected lay leaders).

To reach the Vestry, please email: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net. To reach an individual vestry member, please contact the church office at office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net or 540.373.4133.

Jane McDonald, 2023

Senior Warden

Michele Prout Alston, 2024

Junior Warden

Meghan O'Connor, 2023

Finance Warden

Mac Smith, 2024

Grounds Warden

Casey Hu, 2023

Beth Klein, 2023

John Graham, 2024

Anne Carey O'Connor, 2024

Brian Davis, 2025

Brooke Di Lauro, 2025

Pete Kelly, 2025

Peggy Verdine, 2025

Contact Our Vestry:

The Vestry is our elected, lay leadership council led by our Senior Warden Jane McDonald and Junior Warden Michele Prout Alston.

The Vestry welcomes your questions, concerns, and feedback. Email them at: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

St. George's Episcopal Church

905 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

540.373.4133 (office)

Pastoral Emergencies:

540.361.8573 (call or text)

StGeorgesEpiscopal.net
