The Great Vigil of Easter
Christ Presbyterian Church, Canton, Ohio

April 4, 2026 Seven O'Clock

Preparation for Worship

For this service, we encourage you to gather a few materials to have nearby: a candle & lighter, some oil or water (for anointing), bread and wine/juice, and bells. We also encourage you to have this order of service either printed out or pulled up on another device to follow along. Unless you are a designated speaker, please remain on 'mute' for the duration of the service. Thank you!

Prelude

"Let the Whole Creation Cry" Johann Pachelbel

"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing" P.A. Vidal

"Simple Gifts" *Youth Resound Tonechimes*

Ricercare on Llanfair David Briggs

Noel Novelet Phillip Moore

Greeting and Introduction

Leader: Grace and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Beloved people of God, on this most holy night
when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
we recognize that the disciples scattered.
Tonight, as the church throughout the world huddles in trembling and fear,
we join together, even though we are apart, to hold vigil and offer prayer
Through light and the word, through water, bread, and wine,
we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection,
we share Christ's triumph over sin and death,
and we await Christ's coming again in glory.
Leader: In the beginning was the Word,
People: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,
People: And the darkness will not overcome it.

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world.
Bless this new fire, and kindle in us the desire to shine
with the brightness of Christ's rising,
until we feast at the banquet of eternal light;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**.

Lighting the Paschal Candle (*we encourage you to light a candle*)

Leader: The light of Christ rises in glory
People: casting out the shadow of sin and death

The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

Leader: Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ our King is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!
People: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our King is risen!
Leader: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!
People: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our King is risen!
Leader: Most high God, This is the night
People: This is the night
Leader: in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,
and them, dry-shod, through the sea. This is the night
People: This is the night
Leader: in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.
This is the night
People: This is the night
Leader: in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin,
are renewed in grace, and are restored in holiness. This is the night
People: This is the night
Leader: in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph!
People: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our King is risen!
Leader: The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness;
washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn;
casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride.
People: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Jesus Christ, our King is risen!

Leader: Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving
for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,
reflected in the burning of our candles. Christ, be our light!

Hymn 314 "Christ, Be Our Light" Christ, Be Our Light

Candles may be extinguished

The Service of Readings

Deliverance at the Sea Exodus 14:21–31

God of steadfast love,
your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day.
Through the waters of the sea
you once delivered your chosen people from slavery,
a sign for us of the salvation of all nations
through the grace of Baptism.
Grant that all the peoples of the earth
may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham,
and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Free Gift of Salvation Isaiah 55:1–11

Eternal God,
by the power of your Word you created all things,
and by your Spirit you renew the earth.
Give now the water of life
to all who thirst for you,
and nourish with the spiritual food of bread and wine
all who hunger for you,
that our lives may bear the abundant fruit of your heavenly reign;
through Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
who, with you and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns forever. **Amen**.

Hymn 32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Ellacombe

The Fiery Furnace Daniel 3:1–29

Holy One, our creator and redeemer,
when we pass through the waters
we know that you are with us;
when we walk through the fire
you will not let the flames consume us.
Teach us to worship and serve only you,
and to bless your holy name forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Gathering of God's People Zephaniah 3:14–20

Eternal God of unchanging power and light,
look with mercy on your whole church.
Bring to completion your saving work,
so that the whole world may see
the fallen lifted up,
the old made new,
and all things brought to perfection
by him through whom all things were made,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Hymn 100 "My Soul Cries Out" Star of the County Down

In the Beginning John 1:1–5, 14–18

Hymn 440 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" Aberystwyth

Bells are rung to declare the resurrection of Jesus, our King, Savior, and High Priest

Easter Gospel Mark 16:1–8

Hymn 233 "The Day of Resurrection!" Lancashire

The Service of Baptism

Thanksgiving over the Water

Profession of Faith

Leader: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?
People: I renounce them.

Leader: Who is your Lord and Savior?
People: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying Christ's word and showing Christ's love?
People: I will with God's help.

Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Anointing

We invite you to now take the oil or water you prepared and gently make the sign of the cross on your forehead and those gathered with you as you remember your baptism.

Leader: Remember your baptism and be thankful,
and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.
Saint: Thanks be to God.

Song of Response: Hymn 826 "Lift High the Cross" Crucifer

The Service of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts!
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God.
By your wisdom,
you created and delivered the world and everything in it;
by your power
you have delivered us from evil in every age;
by your mercy
you have promised to never forsake us.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Before the rising of the sun on the first day of the week,
Jesus rose from the dead.
With the first believers, we bear witness to the good news of great joy.

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup. Make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.
As we have been buried with Christ by baptism into death,
raise us up, by the power of your Spirit, to walk in new life.
Let us be dead to sin and alive to you in Christ Jesus.
As grains of wheat are gathered from the land to become one bread we share,
gather up your church from the ends of the earth
into the glory of your new creation. Amen.

Words of Institution

Leader: Jesus said
People: I am the bread of Life.
Leader: Jesus said
People: I am the vine, you are the branches.
Leader: Jesus said come to me and never be hungry
People: believe in me and never thirst.
Leader: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Communion Is Shared

We now invite you to take the communion that you have prepared and share it with those gathered with you.

Communion Music

"Meditation" Maurice Duruflé

Prayer

Hymn 246 "Christ Is Alive!" Truro

Blessing and Charge

Sunday Worship at CPC

8:30 a.m.
Worship in the Chapel
10:30 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary
&

YouTube
@cantoncpc

scan the QR code to visit our website, sign up for email updates, and learn more about our ministries

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To be added to the *Tydings* email list or submit an article for *Tydings*, please email sarahpc@cantoncpc.org no later than Wednesday, April 15

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Director of Children's and Family Ministries: Hannah Miller
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Prayers adapted from *Feasting on the Word* and *The Book of Common Worship*