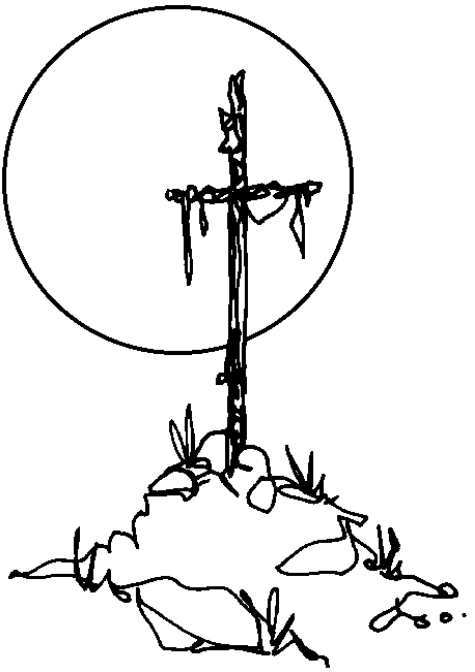
Easter Vigil

April 19, 2025
7:00pm



Christ United Methodist Church
West Park United Church of Christ

EASTER VIGIL
April 19, 2025

GATHERING

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Savior. My brothers and sisters in Christ: On this most holy night, in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather as the Church to watch and pray. This is the Passover of Christ, in which we share in Christ's victory over death.

UNISON PRAYER

God of life, through Jesus Christ you have bestowed upon the world the light of life. Sanctify this new fire, and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled with holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Leader: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

People: Christ is our light! Thanks be to God!

We will light the Paschal Candle from the fire, and then you may light your own candles from the Paschal Candle. We will then process into the sanctuary, following the Paschal Candle. Raise your own candle high as you enter. During the procession, we will use the following response:

Cantor: Christ our Light!
People: Thanks be to God!

*EASTER PROCLAMATION (Ancient 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, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in

the brightness of our King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

Leader: Rejoice, O holy Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

People: It is truly right that we should praise you, invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid the debt of Adam's sin to deliver your faithful people.

Leader: This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain. This is the night when first you saved our forebears, when you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them with dry feet through the sea.

People: This is the night when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin! This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

Leader: This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth, and we are reconciled to you!

People: Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to your honor. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven, and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of the night!

All: May the Morning Star, who came back from the dead, shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Please carefully extinguish your candle and be seated.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Leader: Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, and pray that each one of us may receive the fullness of this grace.

THE CREATION
Genesis 1:1-2:4 Jane Thorkelson
Prayer **Response: Amen.**
Hymn: UMH 92 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND THE EARTH
Genesis 7:1-6, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13 Dan Moreland
Prayer **Response: Amen.**
Hymn: UMH 110 - *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

ABRAHAM'S TRUST IN GOD
Genesis 22:1-18 Ruth Cunningham
Prayer **Response: Amen.**
Hymn: UMH 116 – *The God of Abraham Praise* vs. 1 and 4

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA
Exodus 14:10-31 Philip Jennings
Canticle: UMH 135 - *Canticle of Moses and Miriam*

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL
Isaiah 55:1-11 Kathleen Moreland
Prayer **Response: Amen.**
Hymn: UMH 641 - *Fill My Cup, Lord* sing twice

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT
Ezekiel 36:24-28 Kathy Pavick
Prayer **Response: Amen.**
Hymn: UMH 393 - *Spirit of the Living God* sing twice

NEW LIFE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Joy Slipp

Prayer **Response: Amen.**

Hymn: UMH 420 - *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

BURIED & RAISED WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM

Romans 6:3-11 Sandy Foster

Psalter: UMH 835 - *Psalm 114*

Hymn: UMH 155 - *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

ALTAR RESTORED AND LIGHTS RESTORED

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 24:1-12 Robin Jessen

Leader: God is still speaking,

People: and we are still listening. Thanks be to God!

SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? **I will.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Almighty?

I believe in God, the Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, is seated at the right hand of God Almighty, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Eternal God: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their

children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

****Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

****Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

****All praise to you, Eternal God, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen**.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

CLOSING HYMN: UMH 702 - *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*

*BENEDICTION

Let us now proclaim that death has no hold over us for Christ is Risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!**

All are invited to Easter services of celebration:

10:00 a.m. - West Park United Church of Christ

6:30 a.m. at the San Diego Community Garden and
10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary - Christ United Methodist

Please go to our Facebook pages for livestream,
or websites for more information.

Happy Easter!

West Park United Church of Christ
The Rev. Jason Thompson
Pastor Jim Furry
Dan Moreland, reader
Kathleen Moreland, reader
Robin Jessen, reader

Christ United Methodist Church
The Rev. Dianne Tobey Covault, OSL
Anna Pengov, keyboard
John Motley and Gill Pongallo, media
Ruth Cunningham, reader
Philip Jennings, reader
Kathy Pavick, reader
Sandy Foster, reader
Joy Slipp, reader
Jane Thorkelson, reader