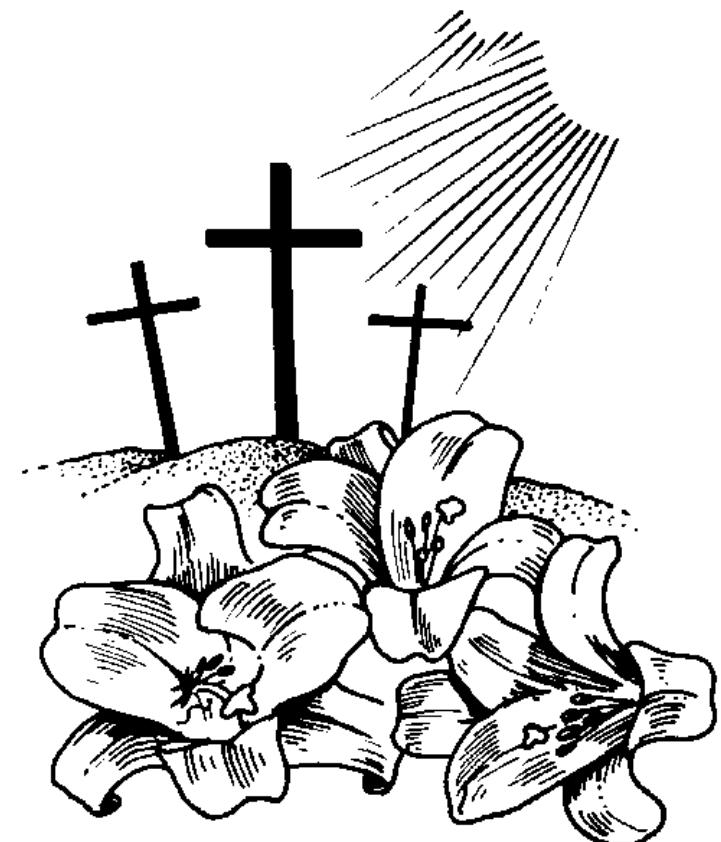


CHRIST CHURCH
SHOOTERS HILL



Easter Vigil

The Service of Light

The building being in darkness, the ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle

The president says

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord.

We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

The new fire may be kindled.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Easter Candle may be marked here.

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

Nails or incense studs may be inserted into the Easter Candle.

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The Easter Acclamation

The president says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made.

Hymn: Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father (and the Son),
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The president says

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The president lights the Easter Candle, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

The minister bearing the Candle enters the building, raises the Candle and sings

**The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.**

The Easter Candle is placed on a stand at the front of the building

The Exsultet

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!
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you! And let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

**The Lord be with you
and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has saved us by his death, paid the price of Adam's sin, and reconciled us once again to you.
Glory to you for ever.

For this is the Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.
Glory to you for ever.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.
Glory to you for ever.

Most blessed of all nights! Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Glory to you for ever.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.
Glory to you for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light. For Christ the morning star has risen in glory; Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever! **Amen.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

Saving God, **give us life.**

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

Saving God, **give us life.**

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Saving God, **give us life.**

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Saving God, **give us life.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; For all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Saving God, **give us life.**

The people reaffirm their faith.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

The priest turns to the bowl of water

The president says

As we celebrate the resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,
we remember that through the paschal mystery
we have died and been buried with him in baptism

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The president addresses the congregation

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Prayer over the Water

The president stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Vigil

Lights are taken from the Easter Candle to illuminate the Bible from which the Vigil readings will be read.

As we await the risen Christ,
let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history,
recalling how he saved his people in ages past
and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer;
and let us pray that through this Easter celebration
God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has
begun.

The readings have been abbreviated to make the service more suitable to live-streaming.

Reading from Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.'

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Psalm 42: 1-7

- 1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, •
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 **My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; •
when shall I come before the presence of God?**
- 3 My tears have been my bread day and night, •
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'
- 4 **Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: •
how I went with the multitude
and led the procession to the house of God,**
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, •
among those who kept holy day.
- 6 **Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, •
and why are you so disquieted within me?**
- 7 O put your trust in God; •
for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance,
and my God.

Silence

Christ gives the living water.
Christ is the fountain of eternal life.

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

Silence

Christ is the bridegroom.
The Church is his bride.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading from Ezekiel 36: 24 - 28

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Silence

Christ is the image of the unseen God;
through him all things were made.

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen**

Reading from Exodus 14: 14 - 15: 1a

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers,

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

The Song of Moses and Miriam

Exodus 15.1b-3, 6, 10, 13, 17

1 I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, •
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

**2 The Lord is my strength and my song •
and has become my salvation.**

3 This is my God whom I will praise, •
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.

**4 The Lord is a warrior, •
the Lord is his name.**

5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: •
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

**6 At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; •
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.**

7 In your unfailing love, O Lord, •
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

**8 And by your invincible strength •
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.**

9 You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, •
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

Silence

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading from Isaiah 54: 4 - 14

Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.

For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer.

For the Lord has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off, says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my