



*Dumbarton United Methodist Church
Easter Vigil
April 3, 2020, 8:00 p.m.
via Zoom*



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Gather ahead of time:

--a small bowl of water for the baptism remembrance

--elements for communion: bread/cracker/pita and juice/wine/water.

You are invited to find a quiet place in your home...

dim lights, if possible, and light a candle or have a small table lamp near you.

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WE GATHER IN DARKNESS

Liturgist

We commemorate tonight the time between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. As we have every year until now. This time in the year of the COVID pandemic, and of other threats revealed in the pandemic's course. Now, more than ever, we need to feel the Peace of God's Covenant.

We know the scriptures. We can mouth the scriptures. Now, we must feel the scriptures.

Sung Meditation

Mike Doan

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O God, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

Al-le-lu-ia!

WE NEED THE LIGHT

Liturgist

Always at this time, we know the night of the great mystery, the night that is to give birth to new life. Not only the creation of the world, but also the creation of grace. Light we will have, and light we need in these anxious times. Covenant and faith. The hope is great. It is the hour of mysteries -- but the faithful know what is happening. God is yet at work.

Sung Meditation

Alan Mayers

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O God, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,

Al-le-lu-ia!

WE HEAR THE STORIES

Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Reflection	Mittie Quinn
Covenant Experienced	"Lost in the Stars"	sung by Alan Mayers --from "Cry the Beloved Country" by Alan Paton	
Deliverance	Exodus 13:17-18; 14:10-30	Reflection	Jennifer Milewski
God's Faithfulness	"Great is Thy Faithfulness"	sung by Chris Urquiaga	
The Impossible	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Reflection	Floyd Gomez-Starnes
For Such a Time	Esther 4:5-16	Reflection	Neal Christie
Response in Song		sung by Chris Urquiaga	

And, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
and joy, compassion, and peace;
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!

Liturgist

In other Vigils in other years, we celebrated and rejoiced in our baptism. Water is life-giving. Water is renewing and reviving from the grittiness and thirst of life. Water is a welcome and a blessing. Water lapping, waves breaking show the power and beauty of the earth and of God's covenant with us. The old covenant and the new in Christ Jesus.

At this time, I invite you to add more light in the space where you are worshiping. The light has come into the world, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Response in Song

Wa, Wa, Wa Emimimo, Wa Wa Wa Alagbara, Wa-o, Wa-o, Wa-o;
Come, O Holy Spirit Come, Come Almighty Spirit Come, Come, Come, Come.

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

Celebrant

Children of God,
through the sacrament of baptism
God's Spirit has been poured out upon the water.
Today we come to the water,
to renew our commitments
in each other's presence
to Christ who has nurtured us,
the Spirit who has birthed us,
and the Creator who is making all things new, even now.
And so, what say you to the powers of sin and death?
No! To the spiritual forces of wickedness!
No! To the evil powers of this world!
No! To any more of our own sin!
What say you to the Spirit who uses you as prophets?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us.
We resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all forms.
We speak truth to the powers that be.**

What say you to living as disciples of Jesus Christ, as his body on earth?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior.

We put our whole trust in his grace.

We serve Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

**We proclaim the Good News through Christ's church, embracing all genders, ages,
nations, races, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities!**

The Spirit of our God is with us.

Thanks be to God!

Let us pray.

Holy God, in the anxieties in this year of COVID,
we remember our baptism into Jesus Christ.

We accept from you the life you have given us.

Your justice we yearn for.

Your mercy we trust in.

Your healing river flows.

Your Spirit blows where you will.

Your love cannot be stopped!

When we feel alone,
remind us you are there.

Calm us, help us let you in.

Give us strength against the unknown.

Come and quench our thirst.

We are dry and thirsty, O God.

Come, refresh us!

Holy Spirit, you are with us.

We feel you.

Drops of your mercy.

The flow of your righteousness and justice.

We feel you.

We feel you. Amen.

The celebrant will now call to each Zoom participant by name to "Remember Your Baptism, And Give Thanks" at which time the participant will dip their hand into their bowl of water and mark remembrance of baptism in a variety of ways - touching to forehead, making the sign of the cross, splashing water on the face. Once this is completed, the Liturgist will invite the celebrant to remember their baptism.

Remember: This is - and should be - a joyous remembrance!

Response in Song

Wa, Wa, Wa Emimimo, Wa Wa Wa Alagbara, Wa-o, Wa-o, Wa-o;

Come, O Holy Spirit Come, Come Almighty Spirit Come, Come, Come, Come.

Liturgist

In years past, we'd have a story that would leave no doubt about the Resurrection, but the story in Mark leaves plenty of room for doubt. But what is faith without doubt? Knowledge. In this year of COVID, we need both faith and knowledge, but definitely faith. Remember, tonight is the mystery. But let us take on faith the light that we need. Come on, let's eat.

WE SHARE A MEAL OF THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

With you, too.

Let God enter your hearts.

We open ourselves to you, O God.

In these anxious times, we thank you, O God

It is right to do so, especially now.

Your covenant with us.

Your faithfulness to us, always and everywhere,

For that we thank you from our hearts, O Loving God.

We come to you in the dark with fear and hope, and you are there for us.

So, we praise you,

as we have done in times past and in times to come,

with feelings of both comfort and unease:

Holy, holy, holy One,

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes

In the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest!

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

This is how we see you, when we try to understand you as real and with us.

We know the stories. We have known your stories for a long, long time.

Remind us when we forget.

They hold your truth and mercy.

They hold your hope for us and our hope in you.

We know the stories.

We know the stories.

We know the stories,

of your healing miracles,

of your ministry to the poor,

of your open, welcome table,

of your death and resurrection.

We know the stories.

We know the story of this meal.

On the night of Jesus' betrayal,

he took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to the disciples. He said,

"This is the bread of Life which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

Then, Jesus poured the wine and gave it to the disciples, saying,

"This cup is the cup of grace that is poured out for you and all creation, as often as you do this, remember me."

And so it is,
with open hearts we praise you and thank you, offering ourselves
as holy and living sacrifice, in gratitude for Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts.

Let them sustain us for the living of these days. Amen.

Celebrant

Friends, I invite you to take this holy moment, to share in the bread of life and the cup of grace,
broken and poured out for you and for all creation. May this holy mystery be a blessing to you this
night.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Liturgist

This is the night, of the great mysterium,
during the great pandemic of our times, not the plagues of Egypt in scripture,
but the plague of our time, not yet over.
Give us comfort and wisdom, Immanuel.

This is the night

before the resurrection.

What does that look like for us, here and now?

This is the night of which it is written:

The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness.

This is the night,

when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.

This is the night. Have faith. God is with us.

WE GO FORTH AS EASTER PEOPLE

Closing Prayer

Liturgist

Let us pray,

O God, in this time of commemoration and hope,

We have heard the stories, the stories that we already knew.

We are called to be bread and wine to people who frighten and anger us.

Be with us, as we answer this call.

Give us strength, give us hope, and give us calm.

Infuse us with the meaning and feeling of the Easter promise.

Ground us in renewal, reconciliation, and patience.

Let the peace of Christ be the peace we spread.

In all humility and gratitude,

In your name we pray. Amen.

Response in Song

“Halle, Halle, Halleluja”

Cheryl Conway & Melany Burrill

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja,
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja,
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja,
Halleluja, Halle-lu-ja!

Celebrant

The peace of the Risen Christ is with you,
And also with you!

All are welcome to proclaim

“Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!”

Go in peace, my friends, to love God and neighbor in the many and varied ways we meet them.

Dumbarton United Methodist Church

3133 Dumbarton St NW -- Washington DC 20007 www.dumbartonumc.org

Rev Rachel Cornwell, Pastor

Chris Urquiaga, Director of Music Ministry

Jeehye Kim Pak, Youth & Children's Minister Melany Burrill, Church Administrator

Calia Christie, Worship Production Manager

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