

The Great Vigil of Easter



The culmination of the sacred celebration of Holy Week and the beginning of the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection, The Easter Vigil is the climax of the Christian Year and tells - in Scripture, psalm, Sacrament and liturgy - the story of redemption. It begins in darkness and proceeds to a joyous burst of light. It begins in silence and proceeds to the glorious proclamation:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!

The wonderful drama of the Great Vigil of Easter begins with the service of the new fire. We will gather in the dark, in the church, at 7:00 p.m. where we will strike the fire, bless and light the Paschal Candle, share the light of Christ amongst the gathered faithful, and then carry the Paschal Candle to the front of the church singing "The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God."

Illumined by candle light, we will hear nine readings from the Hebrew Scriptures; the story of creation and God's saving work among God's chosen people. Then, after renewing our baptismal vows, we proclaim the Easter Acclamation as the lights come on to reveal the glory of Easter, new life, resurrection. This first Eucharist of Easter is a powerful experience. If you have never attended an Easter Vigil at St. Andrew's, this is the year for you to join us!