



Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church

**Great Vigil of Easter
26 March 2016 at 8:00pm**

+++ SERVICE OF LIGHT +++

Gather outside or in narthex with candles. Paraments should be white. Sanctuary remains in darkness through entire first part of service.

†Lighting of the Paschal Candle (*Brian*)

*In the darkness, fire is kindled as the acolyte torch is lit (*Wallace*). The Celebrant says:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water, through bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Let us pray. O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter Vigil so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may join in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

*(*Wallace*) The Paschal candle is lighted from the newly kindled fire, then all light their candles from the Paschal candle. The Celebrant, bearing the candle, leads the procession into the chancel, pausing three times (at the church entrance, at the narthex entrance, and in the center of the chancel) and saying each time:*

The light of Christ

Thanks be to God.

†Exsultet (Please remain standing) **(*Bennie*)** (3 verses)

1. *Rejoice, angelic choirs, rejoice! Rejoice now, all creation!
Let trumpets loudly raise their voice To hail the Lord's salvation;
Let all Christ's holy priesthood sing
The triumph of their mighty king In festive celebration!*
2. *O earth, exult in radiance bright, Illumined by Christ's splendor!
Your darkness now is put to flight; To him due praises render!
Be glad, O Church! Sing `out your songs!
Your temples fill with shouting throngs To hail the glorious victor!*
3. *Let all who gather round this flame, The sign of Christ's arising,
The deathless light of Christ acclaim, His saving mercy prizing;
That all may live by faith in him
Who conquered death, despair, and sin To make us his forever.*

†Prayer **(*Emily*)**

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, the eternal God, and your First-born, our Savior Jesus Christ.

For Christ is the true Passover lamb who at this feast has set your faithful people free. This is the night when you saved the people of Israel from their slavery in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when the pillar of fire brought light to your wandering people. This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Accept this Easter candle, O God, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to your honor, O God.

May the Morning Star find this flame still burning among us. Christ is that Morning Star, who rises to shed your peaceful light on all creation.

Christ is now alive and glorified with you for ever and ever. Amen.

Please extinguish your candles at this time...

+ + + SERVICE OF READINGS + + +

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved God's people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The Story of Creation: (*Emily*)

Genesis 1:1 – 2:2

Begin Video 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

And 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, one day.

Begin Video 2

And God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the firmament and separated the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

Begin Video 3

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so...And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

Begin Video 4

And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years." And it was so. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Begin Video 5

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens." So God created the sea creatures and every living creature that moves, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

Begin Video 6

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness." So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished. And on the seventh day God finished his work, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work which he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation. That is the Story of Creation.

(*Bennie*) Only play intro

†Congregational Psalm 36:5-10 (*Bennie*) Tune: *O Waly, Waly*, #302

*Thy gifts, O Lord, surpass the heav'ns, Thy faithfulness, the clouds above;
How matchless is Thy righteousness; How dear is Thy redeeming love.*

*Beneath the shadow of Thy wings, Thy people banquet at Thy board;
They drink the cup of pure delights And taste the pleasure of the Lord.*

*God is the well-spring of my life, And in God's light, I light shall see;
The pure of heart true favor find, And in God's law their liberty.*

The Flood: (*Meme*)

from Genesis 7-8

Begin Video 1

There was a man named Noah who loved God very much. He was a good man in a time when the whole world was filled with wickedness.

One day, God came to Noah and said, "Noah, I have decided to exterminate all human life on earth, because they are so filled with sin and corruption. But I will save you and your family. I know that you love me, and you do no wrong, and you follow my commands.

"Therefore, make yourself an ark of cypress wood, for a great flood will come. Make the ark with cabins for your family and stalls for as many animals, birds and creeping things as I will instruct you to gather. "

So Noah began constructing the ark, according to the instructions of the Lord. When the ark was finished, God commanded that Noah begin

gathering animals into the ark: seven pairs of every clean animal that was fit for food, and two of every unclean animal that wasn't fit for food.

Begin Video 2

Noah did as the Lord commanded. Finally, the Lord God commanded that Noah gather his family into the ark and shut the great doors.

Then the rains came. The heavens opened above and the fountains of the deep opened below. For 40 days and 40 nights, great torrents of rain fell, until the waters covered the whole earth -- even the mountain tops. Every living being left upon the earth drowned in the flood.

But Noah and his family, and all the animals in the ark, were safe. The ark floated on the waters, protected by the hand of the Lord.

At last the rains stopped, and the sun and the winds began drying up the flood. After 150 days, the waters slowly receded, until the ark came to a rest on a mountain top.

Begin Video 3

After this, Noah worshiped God and gave thanks that God had saved him and his family. And God blessed Noah and his family, and gave them this promise: "I make my covenant with you and your descendants and with all living beings, that I will never again destroy the earth by a flood.

"And look, I have put my bow in the clouds, as a sign of the promise that I have made with you and with every living being. When I look upon it, I will remember the everlasting covenant that is between you and me and every living being on earth, and never again will I destroy the earth by a flood."

So, that is the Story of the Flood.

(*Bennie*) Only play intro

†Congregational Hymn #370: This Is My Father's World (2 verses)

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10 – 15:1

(*Olivia*) The Story of the Exodus.

After 400 years in Egypt, after generations of being slaves and working under the whip to build the cities of Egypt, the children of Israel were released by Pharaoh from their bonds. Moses led them out, while the Egyptians were still reeling from the terrible tenth plague -- the angel of death, who had killed all the firstborn males of Egypt.

No harm had come to the Israelites, though. The angel of death had passed over their houses when he saw the blood of the lamb from their Passover meal on their doorposts. And now the Israelites were leaving Egypt amid the cries and the wailing caused by the hardness of heart of their own Pharaoh. Yet one more Passover remained before the children of Israel would find themselves completely free.

For now, they were content, because the Lord God himself was guiding them -- in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. The cloud and fire of the Lord were never out of their sight. And the Lord led them to the Red Sea, where they set up camp to rest after a long journey's walk.

Shortly after the Israelites had gone, Pharaoh and his officials began questioning themselves. "What have we done? We have let the Israelites escape, and we have lost them as our slaves."

So Pharaoh and his rulers set out to chase after the people of Israel. All the king's chariots, including 600 of his finest, commanded by their officers, set out in hot pursuit. The entire army of Egypt, horses and chariots and drivers, gave chase to make the Israelites their slaves once more.

The people of Israel saw this great multitude coming in the distance, and they knew that it must be Pharaoh and his army. They were terrified. They cried out to the Lord and complained to Moses,

"Did you bring us out here in the desert to die? Look what you have done! The Egyptians are coming to kill us! We told you this would happen while

we were still in Egypt. It would have been better for us be slaves in Egypt than to die out here in the desert."

But Moses said to them, "Don't be afraid! Stand your ground, and you will see what the Lord will do to save you today. You will never see these Egyptians again. The Lord will fight for you, if you but keep still and let him do it."

Then the Lord commanded Moses, "Move the people forward toward the sea. Lift up your staff over the waters, and the sea will part before you so that the Israelites may walk through it on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians until they follow behind into the sea. Then you will see me honored as I defeat them all -- the king, the army, the chariots and the drivers. And all Egypt will know that I am the Lord."

At this point, the pillar of cloud that had been leading the Israelites moved to the rear and held back the Egyptian army into the evening and all through the night.

Then Moses stretched out his staff as God had commanded him, and the Lord opened up a path through the sea. Walls of water piled high on each side. A strong east wind blew all night long and dried the sea bottom. Then the next morning, the Israelites began to pass over to the other side, walking on dry ground, as the Lord had promised.

When they were able, the Egyptians followed the Israelites into the sea. All the horses and chariots and drivers of Egypt gave pursuit. But the Lord looked down from the pillar of cloud and threw them into a panic. Their chariot wheels clogged and wouldn't move. Some fell off entirely.

"Let's get out of here," yelled one of the Egyptians.

"The Lord is fighting for the Israelites and against us! Let's get out of here!"

And they began to retreat toward the shore. When all the Israelites had reached the other side, the Lord said to Moses, "Now stretch out your

hand and your staff over the sea, and the waters will come back again, covering the Egyptian army and their chariots and their drivers."

So Moses did as the Lord commanded, and the sea returned to its place beneath the morning light.

Some of the Egyptians tried to escape from the water, but the Lord drowned them in the sea, covering the pathway and all the army of Pharaoh. Not one remained alive.

But the Israelites had passed over into their freedom by walking through the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on both sides.

On that day, the Lord saved the people of Israel from the Egyptians, and the Israelites saw their enemy lying dead upon the seashore. When the Israelites witnessed the Lord's mighty power that defeated the Egyptians, they were in awe of him. And they believed in the Lord, and they had faith in him and in his servant Moses.

In praise and celebration, Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord.

†The Song of Miriam (*Bennie*)

*Sing now with joy unto the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously!
The horse, the chariot, and the sword he cast into the raging sea.*

*God is our strength, he is our song, he saved us from our enemy.
All praise and thanks to him belong who came to set his people free.*

*He only is the mighty Lord. He only can destroy the foe.
He only is to be adored for he alone can make us whole.*

The Story of Jonah (*Will*)

From the Book of Jonah (TLW)

Jonah slide 1

There once was a prophet named Jonah. He was from Galilee, and like most prophets of his day, he counseled the kings of Israel. One day, the Lord came to Jonah and said: "Jonah, I want you to go the great city of

Nineveh and speak out against it. The people there are very wicked, and if they do not repent, I will destroy their city."

Jonah knew of the wickedness of Nineveh and how powerful and great they were, and he was afraid to go there. So he set out in the opposite direction in order to get away from the Lord.

He went to Joppa, where he decided to book passage on a sailing ship bound for Spain, which is about as far away from Nineveh as you could go in those days. There, he thought, he would surely get away from the Lord.

Jonah Video 1

But the Lord sent a strong wind and a great storm upon the sea. It was so violent that the ship was in danger of breaking up. The sailors were terrified and cried out to their gods.

Jonah came forward and told them, "I know it is my fault that you are caught in this violent storm. For I have run away from my God who made the land and the sea and all there is. Throw me into the sea, and it all will calm down."

So the sailors picked up Jonah, and tossed him into the sea. And it calmed down at once. God had not intended that Jonah should drown, however. At his command, God sent a large fish alongside the ship, and it swallowed Jonah as soon as he hit the water. Jonah remained inside the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

During that time, Jonah prayed constantly to the Lord and repented for trying to run away from his command. God heard Jonah's prayers and caused the fish to cast Jonah out on the dry land. When God commanded a second time that Jonah go to Nineveh, he did not hesitate. Jonah set out on the road that went north to Nineveh.

Now, Nineveh was a very large city, three days walk from one end to the other. Jonah went throughout the city and proclaimed, "Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days! Nineveh will be destroyed because of the people's sins!"

The people were convinced that God had sent Jonah, and immediately went to their king to ask him what to do. "Let everyone turn away from sin and repent," he said. "Perhaps if we are penitent, the Lord will forgive us."

Everyone obeyed the king's counsel throughout the city. They all prayed humbly for the Lord's pardon and repented of their wickedness. Day and night they prayed to the Lord for forgiveness.

God heard their prayers and saw their changed ways. And he did not destroy the city, because God is loving and merciful, patient and kind. The people were not evil any more, and they were saved -- thanks to the word of the Lord delivered by Jonah.

So that is the Story of Jonah.

(*Bennie*) Only play intro—familiar hymn

Hymn #562: Eternal Father, Strong to Save (2 verses)

+ + + RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS + + +

I invite you (to stand) to affirm your commitment to Christ and your rejection of all that is evil.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God 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. Amen.

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. From the beginning, believers have continued in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

Will you commit yourself to this life?

I will, with God's help.

Will you forgive others as you are forgiven?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to love your neighbor as yourself, and strive for peace and justice?

I will, with God's help.

Will you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life and work?

I will, with God's help.

With the whole Church will you proclaim by word and action the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

We thank you God for your love in all creation, especially for your gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you for your covenant with your people Israel; through the Red Sea waters you led them to freedom in the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. Through the deep waters of death Jesus fulfilled his baptism. He died to set us free and was raised to be exalted Lord of all.

We thank you that through the waters of baptism you cleanse us, renew us by your Spirit and raise us to new life. In the new covenant we are made members of your Church and share in your eternal kingdom.

We pray that all who have passed through the waters of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Christ. Through Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all praise and thanks be yours, Redeemer God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The congregation may come forward for the sign of the cross. The renewal of baptism is concluded with the following prayer.

God our creator, the rock of our salvation, we thank you for our new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name; keep us faithful to the calling of our baptism, now and for ever.
Amen.

+ + + LITURGY OF THE WORD + + +

*(*Wallace *) lights the candles at the altar from the Paschal candle.*

*(*Brian*) (whisper)*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

(spoken)

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

(loudly)

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Lights come on full (*Bennie*) with organ

Only play intro

†Sequence Hymn 240: Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks (3 verses)

†Holy Gospel (*Brian*)

Mark 16:1-8

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus’ dead body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were saying to each other, “Who’s going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled.

But he said to them, “Don’t be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn’t here. Look, here’s the place where they laid him. Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he

is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid."

Advance to video 2

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

+ + + HOLY EUCHARIST + + +

(*Bennie*) Only play intro

†Offertory Hymn 347: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (3 verses)

(*Wallace*) brings bread and juice to communion table during hymn

†Great Thanksgiving (*All alternating as marked*)

(*B) *Alleluia! Christ is Risen!*

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

We should give thanks!

Thanks and praise to the One who brings life!

(*E) *Gracious God, we raise our voices shouting alleluia, we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb, we give thanks for the gifts of life, of life that breaks the bonds of death.*

We sing songs of praise for the world you have given us, for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies.

(*O) *As people of faith we remember all those who have gone before.*

People like Moses and Miriam, leading their people to freedom; like Sarah and Abraham, seeking a new life in a strange land; like Peter and Mary, proclaiming an empty tomb and life beyond the cross.

(*B) *We remember these and many others, named and unnamed, who have embraced Your life, Your hope, and moved into a new age.*

And we trust that in remembering and retelling their stories, we too can take the leap into New Life.

(*E) *Deep among all those memories we remember the life of a Special One. Jesus, Child of Mary.*

(*O) *He taught and preached a vision of a world where all divisions were broken down, where all had what they needed for abundant life, where the Reign of God was as real on earth as in heaven.*

And though the powerful in his world fought back, he stood strong. Even though they put him to death you raised him to life, vindicating his vision and bringing hope and healing to the world.

(*B) *As inheritors of that hope we join together in the cries the welcomed him into Jerusalem, the cries of hope for the world:*

Hosanna! Hosanna! Holy One!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

(*E) *As we gather at this table we remember a story told mere days ago and yet also an age ago*

(*O) *We remember that at that table he took the bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and passed it among them saying:*

This is my body, broken by and for the world. Whenever you eat it remember me.

(*B) *Then later he took the cup of wine, blessed it and passed it among them saying:*

This is the cup of the New Covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it remember me, and look toward the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

(*E) *And so we break the bread and pour the cup and we remember with hope.*

On this Easter Night we share in the Banquet of Freedom to celebrate Life Victorious!

(*O) *Send Your Spirit upon we who gather to share this meal, infuse this bread and this wine with the Spirit's power,*

As we eat and drink my we feel the power of life over death, and may the joy of the Empty tomb dance in our souls.

(*B) *Christ who died is now alive!*

Alleluia! Amen.

†Breaking of the Bread (*Brian*)

Here at this table we break the Bread of Life

On this Night of Celebration we pour the Cup of Promise

These are Gifts from God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Come and eat, for all is now ready.

Communion of the People

*Communion will be served by at the front by (*Brian*), (*Elder TBD*), (*Emily*), and (*Olivia*). Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and then return to your seat down the side aisle. Those wishing to remain seated will be served by an elder.*

Post-Communion Prayer (*Olivia*)

*Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. We have recalled your mighty acts in holy history. We have seen your power in sending light to conquer darkness, water to give us life; and the bread of heaven to nourish us in love. Send us with your salvation and joy to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

(*Bennie*) Only play intro

†Hymn 233: The Day of Resurrection

†Easter Blessing (*Brian*)

*May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.***

*May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.***

*May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.***

*And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.***

†Dismissal (*Brian*)

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen.

Go to final video

† *Please rise in body or in spirit.*