

St. John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg, NS

The Great Vigil of Easter - April 19, 2014

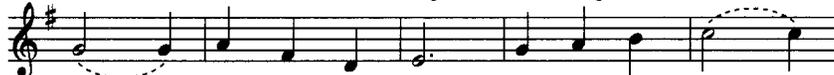
Prelude 'Ere Yet the Dawn' – Buxtehude

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT (EASTER VIGIL TEXT)

Bernadette Farrell



- Verses
1. This is the night of new be - gin - nings. This is the
 2. This is the night Christ our re - deem - er rose from the
 3. Now will the fire kin - dled in dark - ness burn to dis -
 4. Sing of the hope deep - er than dy - ing. Sing of the
 5. In - to this world morn - ing is break - ing. All of God's



1. night when heav - en meets earth. This is the night _____
2. grave tri - um - phant and free, leav - ing the tomb of
3. pel the shad - ows of night. Star of the morn - ing,
4. pow'r _____ strong - er than death. Sing of the love _____
5. peo - ple, lift up your voice. Cry out with joy, _____



1. filled with God's glo - ry, prom - ise of our new birth!
2. e - vil and dark - ness, emp - ty for all to see.
3. Je - sus our Sav - ior, you are the world's true light!
4. end - less as heav - en, dawn - ing through - out the earth.
5. tell out the sto - ry, all of the earth re - joice.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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Welcome

The Scripture Readings of the Easter Vigil

We hear the great stories from the Old Testament of how God has been at work from creation for our Salvation.

It is read in a three-part narrative.

At various points in the readings, the congregation joins in singing their responses throughout.

1. Psalm 104 - Refrain



Lord, send out your Spir-it, and re - new the face of the earth.

2. #468 To Abraham and Sarah (Thornbury)

3. #458 Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God (Seek Ye First)

The Easter Gospel: Mark 16.1-8 All stand for the Gospel.

Reader The Lord be with you. People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO MARK. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salomé bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you

will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Procession Alleluia #715

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Service of Light

Each one receives a candle. *In the darkness, the fire is kindled.*

The celebrant greets the people in the Church Square, saying,

Dear friends 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;

we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray.

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Paschal Candle is blessed.

Christ yesterday and today (*the vertical arm of the cross is traced*) the beginning and the end (*the horizontal arm*) Alpha (*alpha, above the cross*) and Omega (*omega, below the cross*) all time belongs to him and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age for ever.

Then the paschal candle is lighted from the new fire. The paschal candle, lifts it high, as the celebrant sings,

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

The procession enters the church, led by the Paschal Candle.

Members of the congregation light their candles from the Paschal Candle.

The Exsultet

The person singing the Exsultet stands near the Paschal Candle.

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! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the allpowerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!

This is our passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night when you saved our forebears: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.

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. This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and we are reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.

Accept this Easter candle. May it always dispel the darkness of this night! May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning:

Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns

for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The candles may be extinguished. The Paschal Candle burns at all services from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost.

Easter Vigil Collect

Celebrant Let us pray. (Read by Celebrant)

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

Homily

At this Easter Vigil we celebrate Baptism of

Eadlin Ruth Fraser

Parents: Emmi and Hughie Fraser

Lillian Eileen Selig

Parents: Laura Johnston and Joel Selig

Tenley Karen Spindler

Parents: Chasity and Chad Spindler

Presentation and Examination of Candidates

The candidates and families for Holy Baptism are invited to stand and present their child.

Parents and sponsors say,

I present (*Name of child*) to receive the sacrament of baptism.

When all have been presented the celebrant asks the parents and sponsors,

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?

Parents and sponsors, I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and sponsors, I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant asks parents, sponsors and congregation the following:

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? **Answer I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God? **Answer I renounce them.**

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God? **Answer I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

Answer I do.

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love? **Answer I do.**

Do you promise to obey him as your Lord? **Answer I do.**

Question to the congregation,

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ? **People We will.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Let us pray for these children who are to receive the sacrament of new birth.

Other prayers may be added

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Baptism Procession Hymn #35

"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow. Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light,

Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.

Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

Thanksgiving over the Water

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, almighty God and Father, for by the gift of water
you nourish and sustain all living things. *All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your
people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

We give you thanks for sending your Son Jesus. For us he was baptized
by John in the river Jordan. For us he was anointed as Christ by your
Holy Spirit. For us he suffered the baptism of his own death and
resurrection, setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, and
opening to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who teaches us and leads us into
all truth, filling us with his gifts so that we might proclaim the gospel to
all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

We give you thanks for you have called (*Name of candidate*) to new life
through the waters of baptism. Now sanctify + this water, that your
servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death
and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Anoint them
with your Holy Spirit and bring them to new birth in the family of your
Church, that they may become inheritors of your glorious kingdom. We
give you praise and honour and worship through your Son Jesus Christ
our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All **Blessed are you, our strength and song, and our salvation.**

The Baptismal Covenant

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ
and renew our own baptismal covenant.

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, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of
the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the
breaking of bread, and in the prayers? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in
Christ? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as
yourself? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the
dignity of every human being? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect,
sustain and renew the life of the Earth? *People* **I will, with God's help.**

The Baptism

The pours water upon each child saying,

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit. **Amen.**

The celebrant makes the sign of the cross on the forehead with Holy Chrism, saying, I sign you with the cross, and mark you as Christ's own for ever.

The celebrant and families process to the Chancel to present the newly baptized to the congregation, singing the **Procession Hymn #35**

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honour! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

The following prayer is said together:

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

The Giving of the Light

The newly baptized are given a candle lit from the Paschal (Christ) Candle.

Receive the light of Christ, to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

When all of the newly baptized have received candles, the people say,

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We receive you into the household of God.
Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn #212 'Alleluia: The Strife is O'er'

The Prayer Over The Gifts - Read by celebrant

God of life and health, accept the offering of your holy people, and grant that we who are baptized into Christ may be perfected in your salvation, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The celebrant introduces the Lord's prayer in these or similar words:

In the joy of the risen Lord, let us pray the Father, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Doxology

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise
more than we can utter,
more than we can conceive,
be to you, O most adorable Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
by all angels, all peoples, all creation,
for ever and ever.

Lancelot Andrewes (1626)

All Amen. Alleluia.

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Recessional Hymn

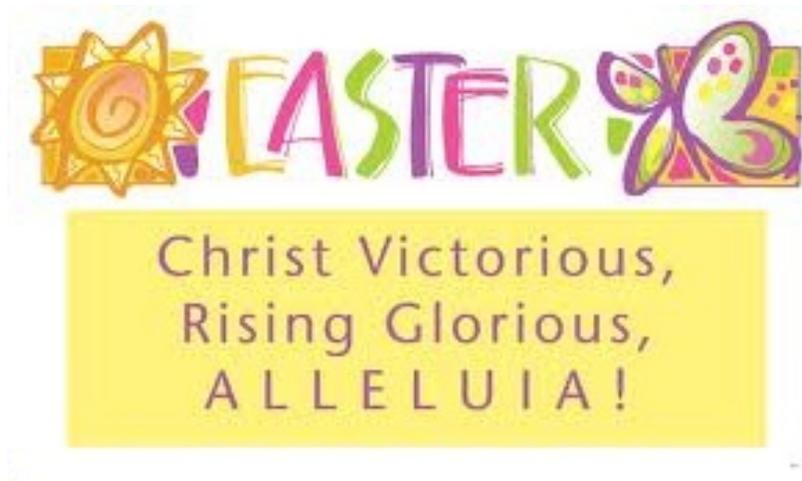
#210 'Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son'

Postlude: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise - Archer

Music Announcements:

Pianist Sharon Gow Knickle is our guest this Wednesday at noon. Because of poor weather conditions on March 26, her recital for Music and Meditation has been re-scheduled to Wednesday, April 23 at noon.

Third Cookie Concert on Saturday, May 3 at 2 pm Our guests are Steve Normandin, a brilliant accordion player from Montreal and Cynthia Myers, vocalist from Chester. Admission is \$5 at the door. Enjoy also a freshly baked cookie at the end of the presentation. All ages are welcome - no admission charge for toddlers.



Rector's Message

In the resurrection of Christ, light dispels darkness and drives away all fear. The disciples are called to enter into a new relationship with the risen Christ. They can no longer cling to the earthly Jesus, but must slowly discover who Christ is as their Lord and Saviour. This process will demand great faith and a willingness to journey forward willing to discover all that God has in store for them. So too, as individual Christians, as a parish, diocese and church, we are being led into the future by the risen Lord.

Easter day is a day like no other. It is a day when we proclaim God's abundant and generous love in raising Christ Jesus, from the dead. It is the day when we are most clear about who we are as his followers and about our mission on behalf of the Kingdom to bring Good News to everyone.

This is the day when everything is made new again. Today we celebrate and give thanks to God for creating us anew by raising up his Son from the dead for the life of the world.

This is the day when we are sprinkled with the water of new life as we renew our baptismal Covenant and pledge again to be the people God wants us to be.

This is the day when we take our place with all those who have gone before us and proclaim that Jesus brings new life to those who have died, forgiveness to all who sin and good news to our troubled world. This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and give thanks! Alleluia!

My wife, Holly and I extend a very happy and blessed Easter to you and to your families.

Michael+