

**The Anglican Parish  
of Greater Hastings**



**The Great Vigil of Easter  
with  
Service of New Fire  
and Baptism Renewal**

**Holy Saturday  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

## **The Service of Light**

*With the building in darkness, the ministers gather at the main entrance of the Church; all stand and face the entrance.*

*The presiding priest introduces the celebration with the following words*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
on this most holy night,  
when our Saviour Jesus Christ passed from death to life,  
we gather together with all the Church throughout the  
world in vigil and prayer.  
This is the Passover of the Lord.  
Through light and word, through water, bread and wine,  
we celebrate the new life that Christ shares with us.

*The new fire may be kindled, and this prayer may be said*

Redeeming God, source of life and light,  
you made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light;  
bless this new fire,  
and grant that we who are warmed  
by the celebration of this Easter feast,  
may share in the everlasting festival of your radiance,  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.  
**Amen.**

*The Paschal (Easter) Candle may be marked with these words.*

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.**

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

*The presiding priest lifts high the lit Easter Candle, saying*

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

*The Easter candle is carried in procession through the Church, stopping three times;  
the person carrying the Easter candle raises it high, and says:*

Christ our light.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the building and then stops.  
The versicle and response are repeated, and the candles of those around may be lit  
from the Easter Candle.*

*The procession continues to the centre of the building and stops once more. The versicle  
and response are again repeated, and the candles of those around may be lit.*

*The procession concludes with the Easter Candle being placed on a stand in a prominent  
place, and all other candles in the church are now lit.*

*The presider then greets the people, saying:*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**The Easter Song of Praise** (*Exsultet*) is said by a minister standing near the Easter candle

Rejoice, all creation!  
Let the heavenly chorus sing!  
Jesus Christ, our light, is risen!  
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,  
the light of Christ will warm our autumn night.  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness will vanish for ever!

Rejoice, O church of God! 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 is here!  
**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift your hearts to heaven  
**where Christ in glory reigns!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our 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 Saviour 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 all who believe in Christ  
are delivered from gloom, and are restored to grace,  
and grow together in fullness of life.

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

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

Therefore, Holy God, in the joy of this night,  
accept our evening sacrifice of praise,  
your church's solemn offering.

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

Let it mingle with the lights of heaven  
and continue burning to lighten the darkness  
of this night!

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.**

### ***The Ministry of the Word - The Great Vigil of Easter***

*The presiding priest introduces the readings with these or similar words.*

E te whanau a te Karaiti/ People of God,  
we have begun our solemn vigil,  
let us now listen to the word of God,  
recalling the acts throughout history  
by which God set people free;  
and how, in the fullness of time,  
God sent Jesus Christ to be our redeemer.

**Reading 1:        Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 4a - *The Creation***

**Psalm 136: 1-9, 25-26 (ANZPB)**

- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, who is gracious:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- <sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- <sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords:  
**God's love endures for ever.**

- 4 The Lord alone does great wonders:  
**Gods love endures for ever.**
- 5 The Lord by wisdom made the heavens:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- 6 The Lord spread out the earth above the waters:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- 7 The Lord made the great lights:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- 8 the sun to rule over the day:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- 9 the moon and the stars to govern the night:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- 23 The Lord remembered us when we were in trouble:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- 24 and rescued us from our foes:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- 25 The Lord gives food to all things that live:  
**God's love endures for ever.**
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven:  
**God's love endures for ever.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**Collect:** Bounteous God, you wonderfully created  
and yet more wonderfully restored  
the dignity of human nature;  
grant that we may share the divine life  
of the one who came to share our humanity,  
Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

**Reading 2:** **Genesis 22: 1-18** - *Abraham and Sarah's faithfulness*

## Psalm 16 (ANZPB)

- <sup>1</sup> Preserve me O God:  
**for in you I have taken refuge.**
- <sup>2</sup> I have said to the Lord, 'You are my God:  
**from you alone comes all my prosperity.'**
- <sup>3</sup> All my delight is in the faithful  
who dwell in the land:  
**and in those who excel in virtue.**
- <sup>4</sup> But as for those who run after other gods:  
**their troubles shall be multiplied.**
- <sup>5</sup> Libations of blood I will not offer to those gods:  
**nor will I take their names upon my lips.**
- <sup>6</sup> You Lord are my allotted portion and my cup:  
**you yourself have cast my lot.**
- <sup>7</sup> My boundaries enclose a pleasant land:  
**indeed I have a noble heritage.**
- <sup>8</sup> I will thank you O Lord for giving me counsel:  
**at night also you teach my heart.**
- <sup>9</sup> I keep you always before me:  
**you are on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall.**
- <sup>10</sup> So my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices:  
**my body also shall rest in safety.**
- <sup>11</sup> For you will not give me up to the power of death:  
**nor suffer your beloved to see the Abyss.**
- <sup>12</sup> You will show me the path of life,  
in your presence is the fulness of joy:  
**and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

*Collect:* Gracious God of all believers, through Christ's death and resurrection you fulfil your promise to Sarah and Abraham that you would increase your chosen people among all nations;

may we respond to your call by joyfully  
accepting your invitation to newness of life.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

**Reading 3:**      **Exodus 14: 10-31; 15: 20-21** - *Israel's deliverance through the Red Sea*

**The Song of Moses** (*Exodus 15: 1,2,11,13,17*)

- <sup>1</sup> I will sing to the Lord,  
for the Lord has triumphed gloriously:  
**the horse and its rider have been thrown into the sea.**
- <sup>2</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song:  
**and has become my salvation.**
- <sup>3</sup> This is my God, whom I will praise:  
**the God of my forbears whom I will exalt.**
- <sup>4</sup> Who is like you O Lord among the gods:  
**who is like you majestic in holiness?**
- <sup>5</sup> Who is like you O Lord among the gods:  
**terrible in glorious deeds and doing wonders?**
- <sup>6</sup> In your unfailing love you will lead  
the people you have redeemed:  
**in your strength you will  
guide them to your holy dwelling.**
- <sup>7</sup> You will bring them in and plant them  
on the mountain of your inheritance:  
**the place O Lord that you have made for your dwelling,**
- <sup>8</sup> the sanctuary O Lord that your hands have established:  
**you Lord will reign for ever and ever.**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**Collect:**      God of freedom, in the Red Sea you give us a symbol  
of our baptism;



grant that all the peoples of the earth  
may come to new birth by water and the Spirit  
and share in the heritage of your chosen people;  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

**Reading 4:**     **Isaiah 55: 1-11** - *Salvation is offered freely to all*

**God is My Salvation** (*Isaiah 12:2-6*)

- 1   Behold God is my salvation:  
    **I will trust and will not be afraid,**
- 2   for the Lord God is my strength and my song:  
    **and has become my salvation.**
- 3   With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation:  
    **and in that day all of you will say,**
- 4   ‘Give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord:  
    **make known among the nations what the Lord has done,**  
    **proclaim that the name of the Lord is exalted.**
- 5   ‘Sing praises for the Lord has triumphed gloriously:  
    **let this be known in all the earth.**
- 6   ‘Shout and sing for joy you people of God:  
    **for great in your midst is the Holy One.’**

Let us pray.

*Silence*

**Collect:**       God our provider,  
                  by the power of your Word you create all things,  
                  and by your Spirit you renew the earth;  
                  give now the water of life to all who thirst for you,  
                  and nourish at your table all who hunger for you,  
                  that our lives may bear the abundant fruit of your love;  
                  through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
                  **Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest or some other suitable song of praise is sung. Bells may be rung during this hymn. In some places it is the custom not to use the organ until this hymn. The altar candles may be lit at this point and any additional electric lights may be turned on.

We stand

### **The Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Hymn:**

***Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!***

*Together in Song #394 - Words: Brian Wren © 2022 Hope Publishing  
Tune: ODE TO JOY [Beethoven]*

- 1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!  
Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:  
all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all-surrounding,  
see, a spreading tree has grown:  
healing leaves of grace abounding  
bring a taste of love unknown.**

<sup>2</sup> Christ is risen! Raise your spirits  
from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning.  
See what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection,  
not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion.  
Joy and peace shall never end.

<sup>3</sup> Christ is risen! Earth and heaven  
nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation  
where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:  
'Christ is risen! Get you gone!'  
God the First and Last is with us.  
Sing Hosanna everyone!

Let us pray.

*Silence*

Eternal Giver of light and life,  
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 your light in the world;  
through Jesus Christ, your First-born,  
who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Epistle:** **Romans 6: 3-11 - New life in Christ**

**Psalm 114 (ANZPB)**

- <sup>1</sup> When Israel came out of Egypt:  
**the house of Jacob**  
**from among a people of an alien tongue,**
- <sup>2</sup> Judah became the Lord's temple:  
**and Israel became God's kingdom.**
- <sup>3</sup> The sea fled at the sight of it:  
**and Jordan turned back in its course.**
- <sup>4</sup> The mountains skipped like rams:  
**and the hills like yearling sheep.**
- <sup>5</sup> Why was it that you fled O sea:  
**and you Jordan that you turned back,**

6 you mountains that you skipped like rams:  
**and you hills like yearling sheep?**  
7 Tremble O earth at the presence of the Lord:  
**at the presence of the God of Jacob,**  
8 who turned the hard rock into a pool of water:  
**and the flint-stone into a gushing spring.**

**Gospel:**

**Mark 16: 1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, chapter sixteen,  
beginning at the first verse. Alleluia!

**Praise and glory to God. Alleluia!**

*After the reading:* This is the Gospel of Christ. Alleluia!  
**Praise to Christ, the Word. Alleluia!**

**The Sermon**

*A silence for reflection may follow.*

**A Renewal of Baptism**

*Presider:* 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 baptised 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 neighbour 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.**

*If water is to be used, the following thanksgiving for water is said.  
The water may be in the font or in a special vessel.*

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 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 be sprinkled with water.*

*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 baptised in your name;  
keep us faithful to the calling of our baptism,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Sacrament**

We stand

### **The Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*As the Offertory Hymn is sung, the altar is prepared with the bread and wine and  
the offerings of the people are collected and presented.*

Offertory Hymn: **Light of the minds that know him**

SG626 - Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith

Alt. Tune: **AURELIA**

<sup>1</sup> Light of the minds that know him,  
may Christ be light to mine!  
My sun in risen splendour,  
my light of truth divine;  
my guide in doubt and darkness,  
my true and living way,  
my clear light ever shining,  
my dawn of heaven's day.

<sup>2</sup> Life of the souls that love him,  
may Christ be ours indeed!  
The living Bread from heaven  
on whom our spirits feed;  
who died for love of sinners  
to bear our guilty load,  
and make of life's journey  
a new Emmaus road.

<sup>3</sup> Strength of the wills that serve him,  
may Christ be strength to me,  
who stilled the storm and tempest,  
who calmed the tossing sea;  
his Spirit's power to move me,  
his will to master mine,  
his cross to carry daily  
and conquer in his sign.

<sup>4</sup> May it be ours to know him  
that we may truly love,  
and loving, fully serve him  
as serve the saints above;  
till in that home of glory  
with fadeless splendour bright,  
we serve in perfect freedom  
our strength, our life, our light.

## *The Preparation of the Gifts*

Blessed are you , God of all creation;  
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## *The Great Thanksgiving*

Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed.**  
Lift your hearts to heaven  
**where Christ in glory reigns.**  
Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**  
It is the joy of our salvation,  
God of the universe,  
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ.  
You said, 'Let there be light';  
there was light.

Your light shines on in our darkness.  
For you the earth has brought forth life  
in all its forms.

You have created us to hear your Word,  
to do your will and to be fulfilled in your love.  
It is right to thank you.

You sent your Son to be for us  
the way we need to follow  
and the truth we need to know.

You sent your Son to give his life  
to release us from our sin.  
His cross has taken our guilt away.

Christ is risen from the dead.  
Love is come again:  
Christ is sovereign over space and time.

You send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide,  
to warn and to revive your Church.

Therefore, with all your witnesses  
who surround us on every side,  
countless as heaven's stars,  
we praise you for our creation and our calling,  
with loving and with joyful hearts:

**Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just,  
glory and goodness come from you.  
Glory to you most high and gracious God.**

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son,  
who washed his disciples' feet.  
'I am among you,' he said, 'as one who serves.'

On that night before he died  
he took bread and gave you thanks.  
He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.



After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks.  
He gave it to them and said:  
Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant,  
shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin;  
do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine  
we recall your goodness to us.

**God of the past and present,  
we your people remember your Son.  
We thank you for his cross and rising again,  
we take courage from his ascension;  
we look for his coming in glory  
and in him we give ourselves to you.**

Send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who receive Christ's body  
may indeed be the body of Christ,  
and we who share his cup  
draw strength from the one true vine.

**Called to follow Christ,  
help us to reconcile and unite.**

**Called to suffer,  
give us hope in our calling.**

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new;  
you are the beginning and the end,  
the last and the first.

**Praise, glory and love be yours,  
this and every day,  
from us and all people,  
here and everywhere. Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

The risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.  
**Christ is the bread of life.**

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.  
**Christ is risen from the dead.**

### *The Invitation*

Come God's people,  
come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

*Communion will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps - all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is **NOT** permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.*

*If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.*

### *Collect for Easter Eve:*

Lord God, you made this night bright  
with the radiance of the risen Christ;  
may we who have been raised with him in baptism  
reflect the light of his glory,  
and live with him for ever.  
Hear this prayer for your love's sake.  
**Amen.**

Christ, you are risen with the sun;  
you are light in our darkness, warmth in our cold.  
You are peace and hope and joy  
for you went willingly to death.  
You turned defeat and failure to victory for all.

You live eternally, and with you live the millions,  
living and dead, who trust in you.

May Christ, who by death has destroyed death,  
give you all courage and joy in believing;  
And the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer,  
and Giver of Life be with you always.

**Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

**At the Font We Start Our Journey**

Words: Jeffery Rowthorn © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Tune: PRAISE MY SOUL THE KING OF HEAVEN [alt. St Helen] 8 7 8 7 8 7

**<sup>1</sup> At the font we start our journey,  
in the Easter faith baptised;  
doubts and fears no longer blind us,  
by the light of Christ surprised  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Hope held out and realised.**

**<sup>2</sup> At the pulpit we are fashioned  
by the Easter tale re-told  
into witnesses and prophets,  
by the power of Christ made bold.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.**

**<sup>3</sup> At the altar we are nourished  
with the Easter gift of bread;  
in our breaking it to pieces  
see the love of Christ out-spread.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Life embraced, yet freely shed.**

**<sup>4</sup> At the organ we are sharers,  
as the Easter anthems ring,  
in a joyful celebration  
of the reign of Christ the King.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise re-sounds and prayer takes  
wing.**

**<sup>5</sup> At the door we are commissioned,  
now the Easter victory's won,  
to restore a world divided  
to the peace of Christ as one.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Easter's work must still be done.**

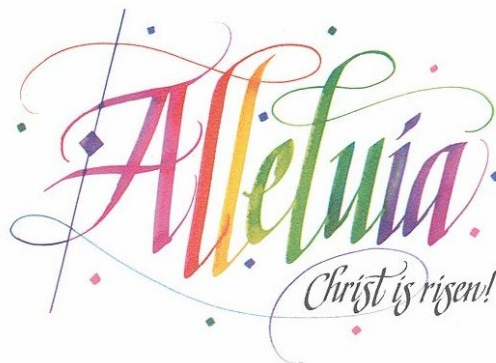
## The Dismissal of the Community:

Go now to love and serve the Lord.

Go in peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**



### Acknowledgements:

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*(encompassing St Matthew's, Hastings, St Peter's, Riverslea, & St Martin's, Mayfair)*

*Christian communities in the heart of Hastings*

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