

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER: SERVICE AT SUNRISE
APRIL 5, 2026 6:30AM
PRUMC COLUMBARIUM



GREETING **MINISTER:** The Lord be with you.
 PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord. My brothers and sisters in Christ: On this most holy morning in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather as the church to watch and pray. This is the Passover of Christ, in which we share in Christ's victory over death.

God of life, through Jesus Christ you have bestowed upon the world the light of life. Sanctify this new fire, and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE GOSPEL Luke 24:1-6a
LESSON † *following the reading*
 MINISTER: The Gospel of the Lord.
 PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE *The leader lights the paschal candle from the fire, saying:*

The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

† *The paschal candle is lifted so that all may see it, and the leader says:*

Christ is our light!

**EASTER
PROCLAMATION**

MINISTER: Christ is risen!
PEOPLE: **The Lord is risen indeed.**
ALL: **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

† *All share the light of Christ.*

† *The procession moves to the nave of the Moore Chapel.
During this procession, the cantor sings the Exsultet, a historic Easter song of praise.*

Rejoice now, heav'nly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquish'd by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts in radiant light
resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame,
pray with me to God the Almighty
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;
through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*** HYMN**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Tune: *Easter Hymn*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

*** RESPONSE** **Minister and People**

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 people are seated and extinguish their candles.*

PRAYER

MEDITATION

* HYMN 303

The Day of Resurrection

Lancashire

* BENEDECTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata, Symphonie V

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844-1937)

WORSHIP LEADERS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Bill Britt, *Senior Minister*

Rev. Karen Webster Parks, *Executive Pastor*

Rev. Geoff Beakley, *Associate Minister*

Rev. Elizabeth Byrd, *Associate Minister*

Oak Martin, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

William Green, *cantor*

**Please join us in Grace Hall for an Easter breakfast buffet at 7:00 am.*