

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ZANESVILLE, OH**

**EASTER VIGIL
APRIL 1, 2018 – 8:15 A.M.**

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT and WORD

GATHERING

(The service begins in darkness. The people gather in a classroom outside of the Fellowship Hall. The Christ candle signifies the triumph of the Resurrection over the darkness of death. Each person will be given a candle. Silence is kept until all have assembled.)

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION

Pastor Mark

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.

OPENING PRAYER

Cassie Burriss

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 with holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Dana Swope

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

Christ is our light!

(The people light their candle from the Christ candle. When all candles have been lit, the congregation processes into the Fellowship Hall, following the Christ candle.)

PROCESSION INTO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Coty Brown
leads with Christ Candle

PROCESSIONAL "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" Joyce Cooper

*OPENING PRAISE SONGS "Morning Has Broken" Praise Team
"Lord of the Dance"

EASTER PROCLAMATION (3x) Cassie Burriss
Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!
The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

SONG "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" Praise Team
(vs. 1, 2, refrain)

READING Ezekiel 37:3-14 Dana Swope

SONG "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" Praise Team
(vs. 3, refrain, vs. 4)

READING Romans 6:3-11 Coty Brown

SONG "Alleluia" Praise Team

GOSPEL Mark 16:1-8 Cassie Burriss

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Dana Swope

CONFESSION AND PARDON Pastor Mark

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

CLOSING SONG "The Easter Song" Praise Team

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING Pastor Mark
Go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!