

Welcome to The Box River Benefice



The Great Easter Vigil



The Box River Benefice

*Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,
Little Waldingfield and Newton*

The Service of Light

All stand and face the ministers.

Dear brothers and sisters 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,
 confident that we shall share his victory over death
 and live with him for ever in God.

The new fire is kindled. Incense is burned and the fire blessed.

Eternal God,
 who made this most holy night
 to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
 set us aflame with the fire of your love,
 and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

A minister brings the Easter Candle to the president, who traces the cross and then the Greek letter Alpha above and the Greek letter Omega below it. The numbers of the current year are marked in the space between the arms of the cross.

As the vertical of the cross is traced the president says

Christ yesterday and today,

As the horizontal is traced the president says

the beginning and the end,

As the Alpha is traced

Alpha

As the Omega is traced

and Omega,

As the first number of the year is traced the president says

all time belongs to him,

As the second number is traced

and all ages;

As the third number is traced

to him be glory and power,

As the fourth number is traced

through every age and for ever.

All

Amen.

Five nails or incense studs are then inserted into the Candle, reminding us of the five wounds of Christ. Each stud is placed in the Candle at the points marked, in the order indicated by the numbers. As each is inserted, the president says (moving from top to bottom of the wounds and then each hand)

1

By his holy

2

and glorious wounds

3

may Christ our Lord

4

guard us

5

and keep us.

The president lights the Easter Candle, saying

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

The president bearing the candle raises it and says or sings



The light of Christ.



All Thanks be to God.

The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the building and then stops. The versicle and response are sung at a higher pitch, and the candles of those around are lit from the Easter Candle.

The procession continues to the centre of the building and stops once more. The versicle and response are again sung at a yet higher pitch, and the candles of those around are lit.

The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building.

The Vigil

Old Testament Readings

Lights are taken from the Easter Candle to illuminate the Bible from which the Vigil readings will be read.

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

The Old Testament readings are read.

The Exsultet

The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) is sung by the president standing near the candle.

The Easter Acclamation

Please Stand!

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made.

The Collect

President Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.
Silence is kept.

Lord of all life and power,
 Who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
 overcame the old order of sin and death
 to make all things new in him:
 grant that we, being dead to sin
 and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
 may reign with him in glory;
 to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
 be praise and honour, glory and might,
 now and all eternity.

Amen

New Testament Reading

Please Sit!

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Please stand and face the Gospel!

Hear the Holy Gospel according to St ..N..

Glory to you O Lord

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please Sit!

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Remain Standing!

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
 To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
 Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

All I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

All I come to Christ.

The president says

May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ
give you strength to continue in the Way.

All Amen.

Prayer over the Water

Please Sit!

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

All

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.

**Saving God,
give us life.**

All

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.

**Saving God,
give us life.**

All

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.

**Saving God,
give us life.**

All

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

All **Saving God,
give us life.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

All **Saving God,
give us life.**

Profession of Faith

Please Stand!

Brothers and sisters, I ask you [with these candidates] to profess the faith of the Church.

All Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

All Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

All Do you believe and trust in 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.**

Hymns or songs may be sung as the waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people.

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

Please Stand!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom,
and may the peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Alleluia.

All The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

All may exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words
Christ is risen.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

God of truth,
accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
May we share in the wisdom of your eternal Word,
who makes himself known in the breaking of bread,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,
 almighty and eternal Father,
 and in these days of Easter
 to celebrate with joyful hearts
 the memory of your wonderful works.
 For by the mystery of his passion
 Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
 has conquered the powers of death and hell
 and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
 He has placed them once more in paradise
 and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
 And so, in the joy of this Passover,
 earth and heaven resound with gladness,
 while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
 sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

All **Holy, holy, holy, holy
 Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
 And we lift our hearts before you
 As a token of our love.
 Holy, holy, holy, holy
 Gracious Father, gracious Father
 Blessed is the one who comes to us in your name.
 And we lift our hearts before you as we give you thanks and
 praise.**

Hosanna in the Highest

Setting: Adapted Jimmy Owens

Please Sit or Kneel!

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
 and according to your holy will,
 these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
 took bread and gave you thanks;
 he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
 he took the cup and gave you thanks;
 he gave it to them, saying:
 Drink this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it,
 in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
 his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
 rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
 and looking for his coming in glory,
 we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
 we bring before you this bread and this cup
 and we thank you for counting us worthy
 to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
 and gather into one in your kingdom
 all who share this one bread and one cup,
 so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints,
 may praise and glorify you for ever,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
 for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

Agnus Dei

All **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy;
Bearer of our sins, Lord Jesus, show us mercy;
Jesus, Lamb of God you take away
The sins of the whole world,
Give us peace, Lord.
Give us peace, Lord.**

Setting: Adapted Jimmy Owens

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The president and people receive communion.

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

Prayer after Communion

Let us Pray...

Silence is kept.

God of life,
 who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
 to the death of the cross,
 and by his glorious resurrection
 have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
 grant us so to die daily to sin,
 that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

All **Almighty God,
 we thank you for feeding us
 with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
 Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
 to be a living sacrifice.
 Send us out
 in the power of your Spirit
 to live and work
 to your praise and glory.
 Amen.**

The Dismissal

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Blessing

The God of peace,
 who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
 that great shepherd of the sheep,
 through the blood of the eternal covenant,
 make you perfect in every good work to do His will,
 working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 come down upon you and remain with you always.

The Dismissal

A minister says

All With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.
Hymn

The ministers and people depart in joy!!!.

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