

WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 23, 2008

THE FIRST SERVICE OF EASTER

During the Great Three Days, from sunset Holy Thursday to sunset Easter Day, we celebrate the saving events of Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. In the development of Christian worship, each came to be remembered on a separate day. In the earliest centuries, however, these events were celebrated as a unity in an extraordinary single liturgy that began Saturday night and continued until the dawn of Easter Day. It was known as the great Paschal (Easter) Vigil. Preceded by a fast day, it was the most holy and joyful night of the entire Christian year, for it proclaimed and celebrated the whole of salvation history and Christ's saving work.

The Easter (Paschal) Vigil has both historic and symbolic roots in the Jewish Passover. That is why so many images are from the Old Testament and why so many analogies are experienced in Christ. In this service we experience the passage from slavery to freedom, from sin to salvation, from death to life. The predawn Easter service begins while it is still dark so as to experience the transition from darkness to light.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

- GATHERING
GREETING AND INTRODUCTION
OPENING PRAYER
LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH

EASTER PROCLAMATION THE EXULTET

HYMN Up From the Grave He Arose UMH 322

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTRODUCTION (After each reading, one stanza of a hymn or a song will be sung.)

THE CREATION Genesis 1:1-2:4a
God of Wonders PPT

THE COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND THE EARTH Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13
Great is the Lord FWS 2022

ABRAHAM'S TRUST IN GOD Genesis 22:1-18
Trust and Obey UMH 467

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21
Famous One PPT

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL Isaiah 55:1-11
Here I Am to Worship PPT

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT Ezekiel 36: 24-28
Create in me a Clean Heart PPT

NEW LIFE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE Ezekiel 37:1-14
Breathe PPT

BURIED AND RAISED WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM Romans 6:3-11
Galatians 2:20 PPT

SPECIAL MUSIC "The Old Rugged Cross" Melissa
Kuykendall

WHO WILL ROLL AWAY THE STONE FOR US? Matthew 28:1-10

MEDITATION

SPECIAL MUSIC "Redeemer" Lauren
Lefferson

**A PARTING BLESSING**

**THE CHORAL BENEDICTION . . . . Through It All . . . . . UMH 507**

*An offering plate has been placed at the entrance to the worship center.  
You may place your offering there.*

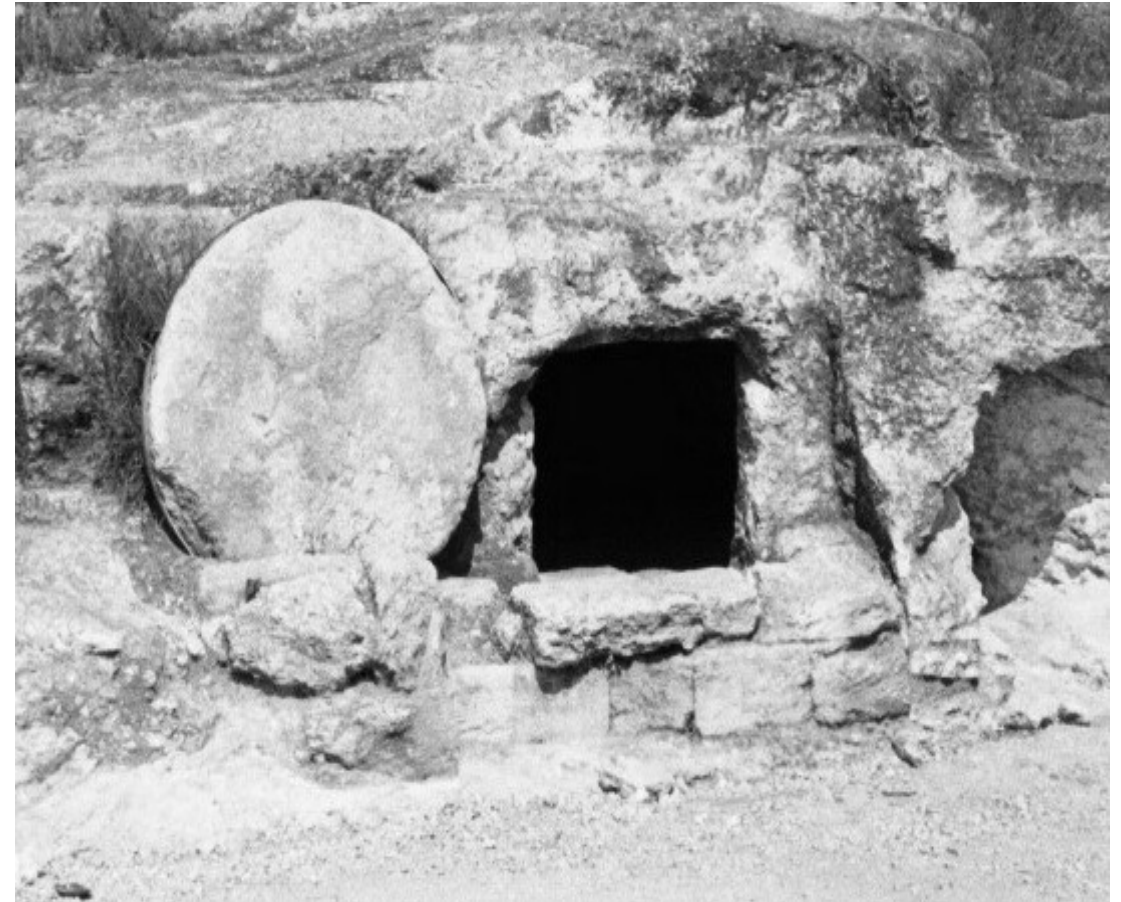
**THE POSTLUDE**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

- Pastor . . . . . Duane A. Kemerley
- Youth Pastor . . . . . Bonnie Olds-Carson
- Musicians . . . . . Rising Tides
- Readers . . . . .
  - 1 – Stephen Lewis
  - 2 – Shannon Maloney
  - 3 – John Houchin
  - 4 – Emily Lefferson
  - 5 – Jeff Benken
  - 6 – Sarah Wetzel
  - 7 – John Wells
  - 8 – Kyle Jeffers
  - 9 – Bonnie Olds-Carson

*Our Sunrise Service Breakfast  
was prepared by youth and youth supporters.  
Thanks!*

# ***The First Service of Easter***



# ***He is risen! Alleluia!***