

**WILLIAMSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

April 12, 2009

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

HYMN ..... In Christ Alone ..... PPT

**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  
Morning Has Broken. .... UMH 145

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  
Forever..... PPT

ISRAEL’S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA .... Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21  
Awesome God.....FWS 2040

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL ..... Isaiah 55:1-11  
Blessed Assurance. .... UMH 369

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  
Only Grace. .... PPT

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

**MEDITATION**

WHO WILL ROLL AWAY THE STONE FOR US? .....Mark 16: 1-8

HYMN.....Up From the Grave He Arose.....UMH 322

**A PARTING BLESSING**

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

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Interim Youth Directors ..... John and Lisa Houchin

Musicians ..... Rising Tides

Readers ..... 1. Patience Wells  
2. Abby Sipple  
3. Kenneth Barth  
4. Erica Comer  
5. Tori Kirby-Swarber  
6. Zachery Houchin  
7. Kara Overstake  
8. Rachel Abrams  
9. Harold Houchin  
10. Jonathon Houchin

*Thank you to everyone  
who provided a dish for the  
Easter Sunrise Breakfast!*



***The First Service of Easter***

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