

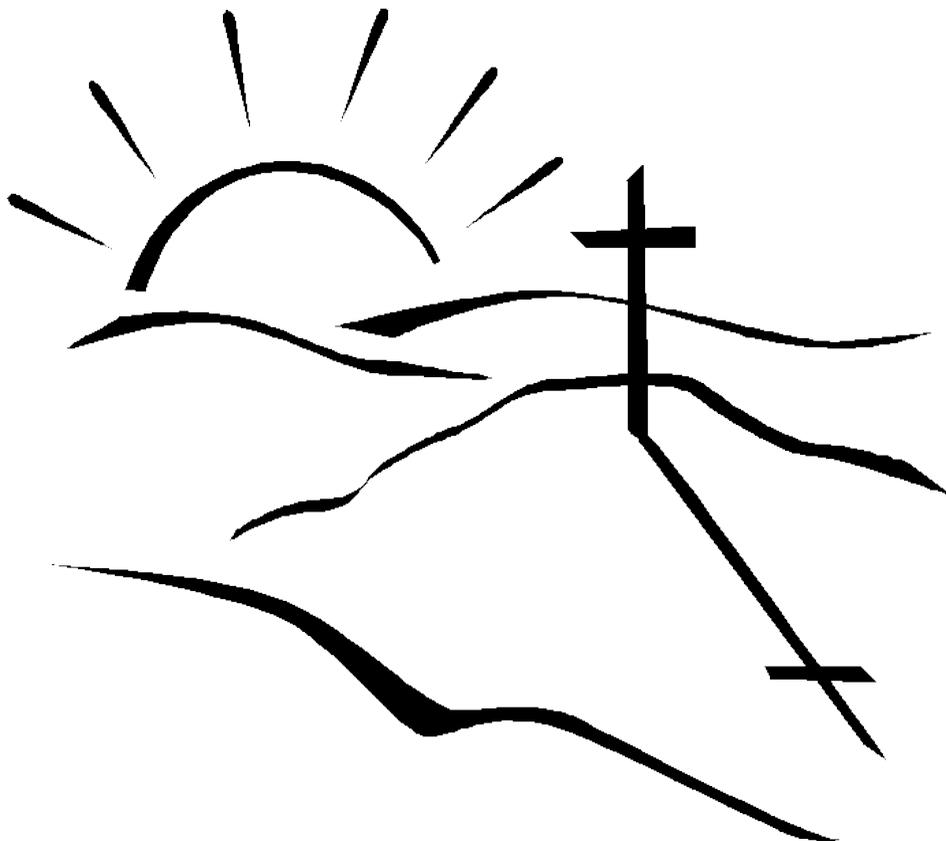
# Fletcher's Chapel United Methodist Church

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**Sunday, April 5, 2015, 6:30 a.m.**



## **Early in the Morning . . . an Easter Sunrise service**

Welcome: We gather together this morning in celebration. We celebrate all the gifts that God gives us, including this new morning, but especially the gift of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. So this morning we offer prayers of worship and hear testament to God's mighty works.

## Opening Hymn

### *“In the Garden”*

I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses,  
and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the son of God discloses.

**Refrain:** And he walks with me, and he talks with me  
and he tells me I am his own;  
and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice  
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
and the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing. **(R)**

I'd stay in the garden with him thou the night around me be falling,  
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe his voice to me is calling. **(R)**

## Genesis 1:31-2:3

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

**Opening prayer:** Lord God, early in the morning, when the world was young, you made life in all its beauty and terror; you gave birth to all that we know: sky and seas; plants and trees; bodies of light in the sky; creatures of the land, water, and air; man and woman.

**Easter People: Alleluia**

## Luke 2:9-10

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people

**Prayer:** Early in the morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come among us, that you were one of

us. The angels proclaimed it, the shepherds heard it, and in obedience worshiped.

**Easter People: Alleluia**

**Confession:** Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders, anxious statesmen, and silent friends, you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God: You shouldered and suffered the cross, and with the words, "It is finished!" you put an end to our hopeless state of death, giving instead the promise of salvation and life.

**Easter People: Alleluia**

**Proclamation:** Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard, empty cloths and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen, that you had come back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied, and destroyed you.

**Easter People: Alleluia**

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

**Easter People: Alleluia**

**Message:** "Early in the Morning" Rev. Michael Reaves

**Closing Prayer:** Early in the morning, the body of believers gather together, one in

faith and hope, one in purpose: To believe in and worship you, the one Lord, Jesus Christ, To live forgiven and thankful lives, and to celebrate the victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

**Easter People:**      **Amen. Alleluia! He is risen!**

**Closing Hymn**                      *“Up from the Grave He Arose”*

1) Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my savior,  
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

***Refrain:***

Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain  
and he lives forever with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2) Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my savior,  
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! **(R)**

3) Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my savior,  
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! **(R)**

**Benediction:** Go in awe of the creation, incarnation, death, and resurrection of our God and give thanks. For God has raised Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses to the fact.

**Easter People:**      **Alleluia!**

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**Our thanks** to Liz Pruett for servings as the pianist for our service this morning.

Come to the Fellowship Hall and enjoy breakfast together after the service has concluded! All are welcome!