**Media Contact:**

Landdis Hollifield

828-625-9611 ext. \*814

prandevents@chimneyrockpark.com

For Immediate Release:

**62nd Annual Easter Sunrise Service at Chimney Rock April 16**

Public event *features spectacular scenery, inspiring message and bagpipes*

**CHIMNEY ROCK, NC (April 6, 2017) —** On Easter morning, the public is invited to witness the sun ascend over Lake Lure at Chimney Rock’s 62nd Annual Easter Sunrise Service. The service attracts more than 1,000 early risers from around the Southeast each year. The interdenominational community celebration on Sunday, April 16, includes live spiritual music by local musicians, an inspirational message and -- with a little help from above -- a beautiful sunrise with 75-mile views.

Admission to the service, which is held rain or shine, is free to the public. The Park gate will open from 5-6 a.m. for the 6:30 a.m. service. Guests are encouraged to come early. No one will be admitted after 6 a.m. due to the large number of people that will be making their way to the top of the mountain before the 6:30 a.m. service.

*“If you’re looking for powerful inspiration and a sense of community, this is it. Our Annual Easter Sunrise Service is a special tradition for our guests -- a memorable event for the entire family,”*said Mary Jaeger-Gale, General Manager at Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park.

Reverend Gene Daggerhart, pastor of Chimney Rock Baptist Church, will deliver the inspirational message, and Reverend Wes Shields, pastor of Bat Cave’s Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, is coordinating the service with participation from other area pastors. The Easter service will feature bagpipes and special live music sung by local musicians.

Attendees are invited to a breakfast buffet at the Old Rock Café after the service from 7-11 a.m. for only $9.99 for adults and $6.29 for children ages 10 and under, excluding beverages.

Sunrise Service guests who present their Easter bulletin and Old Rock receipt at the Ticket Plaza can return to the Park at no admission for the day. The Ticket Plaza is open seven days a week for its regular peak season hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Once inside the park, guests can enjoy the views until 7 p.m.

Limited parking is available on the top lot with additional parking at the Meadows. Shuttle buses will transport guests between the Meadows and the top lot. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early, dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

*High-resolution photos available upon request.*

**About Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park**

[Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park](http://chimneyrockpark.com/index.php) is a still-developing international outdoor destination located 25 miles southeast of Asheville on Highway 64/74A in Chimney Rock, N.C. It is recognized as one of the Southeast’s most iconic sites and popular travel destinations. The Park’s 535-million-year-old monolith called Chimney Rock can be accessed via the 500-step Outcroppings Trail and offers guests 75-mile panoramic views of Hickory Nut Gorge and Lake Lure. The Park features one of the highest waterfalls of its kind east of the Mississippi River, Hickory Nut Falls, at 404 feet. Hickory Nut Gorge, one of the state’s most significant centers of biodiversity, is home to 36 rare plant species and 14 rare animal species. The Rumbling Bald section of the greater State Park off of Boys Camp Road in Chimney Rock is the only other area of the Park that is currently open to the public. A destination for travel groups, weddings and special events, the Chimney Rock section of the Park also hosts innovative [educational programs](http://chimneyrockpark.com/education/) for schools, homeschoolers, scouts and summer camps. Visit Chimney Rock’s website at [chimneyrockpark.com](http://www.chimneyrockpark.com).

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