

# Return to Love from Despair

March 27, 2016

David Emery, Senior Minister



## Scripture

[John 20:1-18](#)

## Key Verses

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. -- John 20:11-18

## Discussion Questions

1. Who do you identify with most in the Easter Story? John, Peter, or Mary?
2. What are some experiences in life that cause people to give up on love?
3. How does it inspire you to know that Jesus returned from death to love?
4. What places of pain and despair are you being drawn to pray for today?

## The Easter Challenge

If this is your first time attending Middletown Christian Church, commit to checking it out for the month of April and see what you think.

## Group Life @ Middletown

If you are interested in taking part in a sermon-based discussion group or other small group, visit [MiddletownChristian.org](http://MiddletownChristian.org) or contact Leah Rippetoe, [lrippetoe@middletownchristian.org](mailto:lrippetoe@middletownchristian.org) to learn more.

**Middletown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

500 N. Watterson Trail • Louisville KY 40243

502.245.9793 • [MiddletownChristian.org](http://MiddletownChristian.org)