

# Easter Hope

April 16, 2017

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**Middletown**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Scripture

Mark 16:1-8

Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. 3 On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. 5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, 6 but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. 7 Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died." 8 The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

*[The most ancient manuscripts of Mark conclude with verse 16:8. Later manuscripts add one or both of the following endings.]*

Then they briefly reported all this to Peter and his companions. Afterward Jesus himself sent them out from east to west with the sacred and unfailing message of salvation that gives eternal life. Amen.

"Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing." Frederick Buechner

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." - Desmond Tutu

## Discussion Questions

1. What worry/sorrow/fear did you bring to the empty tomb this morning?
2. How does the resurrection impact your worry/sorrow/fear/daily life?
3. Where do you see resurrection happening in your life, in the world?
4. Where is your "Galilee" - where you are called to continue the story?

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### 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 Tracey Spann, [tspann@middletownchristian.org](mailto:tspann@middletownchristian.org) to learn more.

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