

# Return to Love from Fear

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David Emery, Senior Minister



## Scripture

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." -- John 20:19-23

...For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." -- Hebrews 13:5

## What I want to take away from today's message...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## Questions for Reflection

1. Why do you think the disciples were afraid? What are some of the negative consequences of fear?
2. How is fear limiting your experience with God? What is fear keeping you from doing for God?
3. What makes Easter dangerous for the Disciples? What makes Easter dangerous for Christians today?
4. What does Jesus give the disciples to help them overcome their fear? How does the Holy Spirit help them?

## Additional Study Challenge

The best way to understand the events on Easter Sunday is to listen in on a conversation between Jesus and his disciples that took place before his crucifixion. Take time this week to slowly read and reflect on [John 14-17](#).

Pay special attention to the role Jesus says the disciples will play after he is gone. Notice the number of times Jesus talks about the importance of the Holy Spirit.

- What can you learn about the role Jesus expects us to play?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in helping us fulfill our role?



### 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)