

Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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Open doors - Open hearts

I Have Seen The Lord!

Easter is my favorite season of the year. It is a time for us to celebrate with thanksgiving what God has done for us. Easter is about love, death, forgiveness, and life. It is about the **love** of God being so great that the Son is given to pay the price for our sins so that we don't have to. It is about **death** because Jesus had to die. If he did not, then there would still be a penalty to pay, we would live in fear of the wrath of God, and our faith would be in vain. I am **forgiven** for all of my sins and so are you, we are all forgiven due to the love of God . Easter is also about **life**, Jesus because he conquered death. All of these items combine to make up what Easter is all about and it reveals to us just how terrific and awesome God truly is.

Jesus is the most important person ever in the documents of history. His presence here on earth is the most significant event ever. On Thursday evening, during the time of the Passover, he gathered his disciples together and had his last supper with them. During this special occasion he established a sacred institution for us to remember his sacrifice by. Later that night he went with his disciples to the garden of Gethsemane where he was arrested. An illegal trial was conducted during the night and early on Friday morning the authorities found him guilty even though he was innocent. On Friday morning, he was taken outside the Damascus Gate to a hill north of the city of Jerusalem called Golgotha (Hebrew) or Calvary (Greek) which means the place of the skull. By noon on Friday darkness fell on the land. Sometime around 3:00 in the afternoon our Savior died. His side was pierced. The Gospel of John reports that this is to fulfill the prophecy of the scriptures which state that no bones would be broken. A man named Joseph, who was a member of the council, and a secret follower of Jesus, donated his tomb and prepared the body. Before sunset his body was placed in the tomb, was sealed with a large stone, and guarded by Roman soldiers. Friday at dusk the Sabbath began. No work could be done until the dawn on Sunday morning. Very early on that Sunday morning, just as it was starting to get light, Mary Magdalene ran to the tomb and found it empty.

The disciples were terrified, even though Jesus told them several times beforehand that this was going to happen. However, they were afraid after witnessing the crucifixion. Mary was different, her actions demonstrate a characteristic about her love that was different from the others. She had powerful love for Jesus. Mary would never forget that he had done something for her that no one else could do. He had forgiven her sins. Perhaps she had sinned the most, maybe she had the biggest debt of all. If so, she was the one that was forgiven the most. She couldn't wait any longer, it was very early when she began running to the tomb. There was just enough light to begin to see inside the dark tomb. She arrived at the tomb and was shocked to see that the stone was removed. Many thoughts must have raced through her head as she tried to figure out how the tomb could have possibly been unsealed with Roman soldiers guarding it. She was dumbfounded, mad, and scared. She was also in a moment of great glory because Mary was the first person to find the empty tomb and realize the reality of the resurrection. Mary was the first to see the risen Christ. event "Mary" and "Master." When Jesus sees her, he calls her by her name "Mary" and when she sees Jesus, she calls him by a respectable title "Master." This is a very tender and precious moment within the greatest event of history. Mary demonstrates the essence of Christianity with her passion for the Lord. Jesus sends her back to the disciples to tell them the good news "**I have seen the Lord!**"

In Christian Love

George Harris