**Easter Sunday**

**April 8, 2012**

**“Easter Changes Everything”**

**Pastor Wayne Driedger**

**John 20:1-10 (NLT)**

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 2She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

3Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. 4They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. 6Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, 7while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. 8Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— 9for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. 10Then they went home.

1. **Open your mind to God’s power.**

**… Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Romans 12:2 (NLT)**

**I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)**

1. **Open your heart to God’s grace.**

**So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:7 (NLT)**

**We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. Romans 3:22 (NLT)**

1. **Open your life to God’s love.**

**May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Ephesians 3:19**

**Dear God,**

**I don’t want to stay the same. I invite you to change me. So as much as I know how, I want to open my mind to Your power and my heart to Your grace. Thank you for loving me and forgiving me. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins. Help me to understand that more. Jesus Christ, I want to open up my life to You and get to know You. I invite You to be the leader of my life from this day forward. I want to learn to trust You. Thank you. Amen.**