

*Easter Sunday*  
*Re-member to new life*

Scripture: John 20:1-18 NRSV

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### Reflections on the Word

Early on the first day of the week

When it was still dark

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to tend the dead body of her dear friend, Jesus.

But when she got there, the stone was rolled away.

The tomb was open.

Confused and afraid she runs to get the disciples that Jesus loved.

They come to the tomb.

They look.

They look again.

But they cannot find Jesus.

They see *signs* of death...but they don't see death.

What happened to death?

What happened to death?

Not knowing

Not understanding  
Still confused and afraid  
The disciples go back home.  
But Mary  
In her grief, her fear, confusion, in her utter lostness and vulnerability  
Mary stays.  
She stays at the tomb and weeps.  
Through her tears she looks into the open tomb.  
There are angels. They ask, "Why are you weeping?"  
"They've taken my Lord and I can't find him."  
She cannot find Jesus.  
Still weeping, she sees Jesus.  
Sees him but she doesn't recognize him.  
She thinks it's someone else and he asks her,  
"Why are you weeping?"  
"Because I cannot find Jesus," she answers.  
She cannot find Jesus.  
We know exactly what Mary is talking about, don't we?  
She came to the tomb prepared for death.  
She was heavy with the grief and trauma of his death...  
This fresh pain was rubbing raw the scars of a lifetime of wounding and pain.  
So she had come to the tomb prepared for death.  
She knew what to do with death.  
But the tomb was open.  
There was no death.  
There was no death.  
And now she didn't know what to do.  
Here is one of the remarkable things about this story.  
Mary stays.  
She doesn't go home.  
She doesn't go off trying to find Jesus.  
She stays and weeps.  
She stays and feels her emotions.  
She doesn't hide her grief.  
She doesn't shut down her pain.  
She doesn't cover up her confusion.  
She weeps.  
She's so overcome by this storm of emotions that she looks at Jesus  
But she doesn't recognize him.  
Through her tears she sees Jesus but doesn't recognize him.  
She's looking for dead  
For death.  
And he's not dead.  
And then another remarkable thing happens:  
Jesus finds Mary.  
Mary is found.  
Jesus says her name  
And in the sound of his voice speaking her name

She immediately recognizes Jesus.

In the sound of his voice, she recognizes the profound generosity and grace of Jesus.

She recognizes the intimacy and unconditional love in his voice.

And she knows it is Jesus.

Jesus found her.

The resurrected Jesus found her.

And he will find the disciples.

He will find the men on the road to Emmaus.

He will find Paul.

And, the resurrected Christ will find us.

We will not find him.

It is not ours to find Jesus.

Jesus will find us.

And we will recognize him by the sound of love in his voice.

The resurrected Christ will find us....

May it be so.