

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE - John 20:1-18

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. ² 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." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look^[a] into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ 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." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ 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.'" ¹⁸ 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.

ANTHEM

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today Henry F. Lyte, Edward Broughton
(UCC Choir, Recorded Easter 2019)

SERMON

ANTHEM

In the Garden C. Austin Miles
UCC Hand Bell Choir Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski
(Recorded February 25, 2018)

PASTORAL PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN** *The Day of Resurrection*
(Recorded Easter 2019)

BLESSING

This is our new commandment:
to love one another, as Jesus loves us.
By this everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples:
that we love one another.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Lift High the Cross" by J. Linker

Bob Oehme, organ

Questions for Reflection

When Mary Magdalene first saw the resurrected Jesus, she did not recognize him, even though she knew the tomb was empty. Have you ever experienced the presence of the risen Christ, even when you were not expecting him? Are there times you have been in the presence of the risen Christ but have not recognized him? How would you know?

Household Prayer: Morning

Jesus, victorious Lord, I exult in your resurrection.
As I sing "alleluia" with my voice,
let my life embody "alleluia" as a testimony to your love
and a witness to your eternal life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, the days of sadness are over,
for you have risen from the dead.
As you conquered the grave,
free your servant from fear of harm or death,
that I may rest in peace this night
and in the morning rise to sing "alleluia." Amen.