

Bible reading John 20:1-18

Hymn 298- Singing-The Faith-*Christ the Lord has risen today*

John 20: 1-18 - The Resurrection of Jesus

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

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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. 'When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). 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." ' 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.

New Revised Standard Version Bible:

Reflection

Last week we witnessed triumphal entry but today we are faced with grief. Mary Magdalene visited Jesus tomb reminding us of our own graveyard visits and the different emotions that come with the visits. Graveyards could be places of solace to those missing their loved ones as we take flowers, maybe have a little cry or a laugh. It could be a place of pain and regret, sorrow and grief for those recently bereaved. When I went to Zimbabwe last year I visited my mother, father, brother and my sister-in-law's graveyards. Indeed, it was not easy, the pain of losing so many people was so real and unbearable- the graveyard was a place of grief and sorrow. Today we are walking the journey with Mary Magdalene who I supposed had a sleepless night and couldn't wait to go, see and make sense of what happened to Jesus. Mary came to the grave with mixed emotions because she had come to know, love and embrace Jesus. As if Mary's loss was not enough, to her surprise the tomb was empty! I tried to imagine Mary's reaction and the picture on her face. It could be Mary wanted to have some quiet moment and a little chat but alas- Jesus' body was missing! It did not dawn that Jesus had risen, she thought maybe the authorities had stolen Christ's body but only to be comforted by an angel asking why she was crying. The bible says when she turned

around she saw Jesus! The pain and disbelief turned into joy - *Christ the Lord has risen today*. We could be held down by our current situation but hope has come- we can face tomorrow with hope for Christ has conquered death. Let us be comforted at times as this as hope is here! Hallelujah! 🙏🙏

Prayer

Heavenly father, we remember the pain and suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ but we got up today filled with joy and hope. Help us Lord to be comforters to others. We pray remembering all those who lost their loved ones and all in hospitals and homes. We pray for the lonely who feel scared and unloved. We pray for Africa which is ill-equipped for this pandemic. We pray for the frontline staff and services for more strength and passion. We say all this in Jesus's name. AMEN 🙏🙏

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***