EASTER 2025

Weep No More

Sunday, April 20th, 2025

John 20:1-18

**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,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2020%3A1-18&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26872b)] 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,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2020%3A1-18&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-26873c)] *“Rabbouni!”* (which means Teacher). **17**Jesus said to her, “Do not touch 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.

Rev. Christine E. Burns

I want to speak first to the children who are listening. This is an old, old story. Once upon a time….. I invite you to hold your mom or dad or grandparent’s hand and listen to what happened and why Jesus said to stop crying.

Once upon a time, there was a man named Jesus and he had a mother named Mary.

When he grew up to be brave and strong and gentle and kind, he grew into his full role and self. He was the Son of God.

This story happens at the very end of his life. Do not be afraid! Even when it sounds dangerous, everything ends up perfect!

Now, I want to speak to the grownups in the world. It is our job to love and protect all the children. And that’s really hard, so we lean into God. We let Jesus and Mary help our disbelief.

We know the tears of grief of Mary at the tomb. We know tomb time. Our story begins in the dark. “While it was still dark.”

And the stone was rolled away. The body of Jesus was no longer in the tomb. It was empty.

It was early on the first day of the week. It was a Sunday. And Mary, who loved Jesus, goes to make sure his body was safe and resting in the tomb. And finding the stone rolled away and frightened that robbers had stolen the body of her Lord, she cried out.

Tears wracked her small frame.

She shook with grief.

And two angels, with wings of white, stood where his body had laid.

And when you see an angel, you are afraid.

That’s why they usually say, “BE NOT AFRAID!”

Because they are scary. And her beloved Jesus was gone.

Mary was afraid.

We know about fear. When have you been this afraid? Afraid that you cannot even go to the grave of your beloved spouse, parent, child, friend and find their body resting at peace? Where have you known this fear in hospital beds as you say goodbye to your wife or husband? Where have you known this fear at your home and you say goodbye to your mother in her bed and the childhood you knew vanishes before your eyes and the body goes cold?

Sit with that fear.

Shiver with that memory.

Now, find some empathy for Mary.

“Woman, why are you weeping?” the angels in white ask.

And she responds still weeping, ““They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” **14**

Then Mary turns around and JESUS is BACK! He isn’t dead. He is RISEN!!!!

Kids, don’t worry. I told you everything was going to turn out GREAT! It will turn out Perfect. This is the greatest story ever told.

Mary, she’s crying so she is not paying attention to who is speaking. She thinks it’s just the gardener.

But it wasn’t the gardener.

It was JESUS!!!!!

And Jesus is the better than the best daddy or mommy, and we know how good our moms and dads can be. But sometimes we need even better love. We need Jesus!

And the fact of the matter is we need Jesus every day. Every night from the moment we are conceived until the moment we are called home to God and draw our last breath, we need Jesus.

And we need Mary.

Do you know Mary does when she hears his voice?

She knows his voice.

She knows it is her Lord. Her beloved Jesus. And she calls him “Rabbouni” which means Teacher.

She tries to fall into his arms as she is still weeping.

Jesus stops her and says, “, “Do not touch 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 wipes away her tears. Gives herself a hug. And smiles.

And then she runs to tell the Good News! Jesus is alive! Christ has risen! Hallellujah.

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.

And those men, they learned the most amazing story ever with the best news is so good we call it THE GOOD NEWS. The message of Jesus in a word is love. The message to take away today and every day and every long, dark night is Christ is risen, risen indeed!

Amen.