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Weekly Letter – 31 March 2024

Easter Day - Victory Day



John 20.1-18 and Psalm 118.1-7, 14-24

Today is a glorious act of remembrance as God reveals his love for you. May you immerse yourself in the Easter reality.

Mary Magdalene thought he was the gardener!

In various ways Mary Magdalene is like you and I. There she is wandering around the garden trying to make sense of what on earth is going on. Even when she receives a colossal nudge from the angels, she continues to struggle to understand God's plan. (We shouldn't be too surprised!).

Not only is Mary trying to make sense of the events, she is also trying to find out where some scoundrel has placed, or more likely hidden Jesus' dead body. In her state, feeling bewildered and frustrated, she can't even recognise Jesus, because she thinks, this must be the gardener. Why doesn't she see what's right in front of her eyes? Well, Mary is trying to find the answer for herself!

Although Mary Magdalene was a faithful and committed follower of Jesus, (like you) she sometimes can't see what's right in front of her. She struggles to understand what the Lord has been teaching her about trusting God's plan. Because she is focused on her plans, and only using her 'common sense' to find Jesus.

We too on this glorious life changing day, must continue to pray that we too will, step by step, cease from concocting our plans in our heads, and learn to see, feel and love God's plans.

In the end Mary Magdalene tells the Good News to the disciples and sees that the only way forward is to glorify God through her life.

Mary, now knows she will not lose Jesus again in death, and this truth will take time to fully adjust to and immerse herself in. For Christ is now the risen Son of God and Lord.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling

Bible Readings: Mark 16.1-8: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles

The Induction of Rev David Salisbury as Moderator will take place on Saturday, 6th April at 2pm in Beulah URC, Rhiwbina, Cardiff.

Easter in our Hearts

While it was still dark, when all seemed lost,
Mary stared at the empty tomb in disbelief,
 shadows of night slipping into light of dawn.

Then you came, Jesus, comforting Mary in her despair,
 and hearing your voice changed everything.

The very first Easter morning gives an image of Mary,
 her sorrow turning into feelings of elation.
Today, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, our story,
 we have this promise: *Your love is ours forever.*

In dying, you conquered death,
 your love giving purpose to our living, and
 the promise of life beyond.

Your words echo through the realms of eternity *'I am the Resurrection and Life!'*

Fear and trepidation linger, but darkness is not forever.
Easter offers hope, love so strong nothing can stop it,
 spilling into our hearts, filling us to the brim with joy.
You long to wipe away our tears, our hurting.
And as church bells ring across this earth, something deep within our soul rejoices,
 knowing *every day is Easter!*

Al-Maseeh Qam (Christ is Risen!) Haggan Qam (He is risen indeed!)
Amen.

Hazel McCorrisken

(URC Prayer Handbook 2024)