



**The drive towards truth and beauty
is irrepressible in humanity
and sometimes
when it's down to its last gasp
it comes to life again.**

—Michael Leunig

Easter flowers given by Jennifer Portway in love

EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2020

Invitation to Prayer

O give thanks to God, who is good;
whose steadfast love endures for ever!
For you are my strength and my might,
you have become my salvation. (Psalm 118:1, 14)

Gathering Prayer

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

God of my salvation, I release the praise
that has been suppressed, held down
not only by the quiet austerity of Lent
but with the uncertainty of these days.
Filled with your Spirit of life,
I open my heart and my lips to say:
Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!
Amen

Scripture Reading — John 20:1–18

Read the passage slowly. If you are with others, one person might read aloud.

Open-ended wondering questions can help us get to the heart of what is touching and moving us as we read. You are invited to pause at the spaces indicated in the reading and offer your wonderings, silently or aloud if you are with others and wish to do so. Leave the wonderings “dangling”. They are not meant to be discussed nor answered. For example: I wonder why the disciple didn’t go into the tomb at first?... I wonder what the disciples “believed”?... I wonder how Mary felt when Jesus called her name?...

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."

I wonder...

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward 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.

I wonder...

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? 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."

I wonder...

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.

I wonder...

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- Consider the wonderings that arose for you. Which one or two resound in you now?
 - What is sparked within you as reflect on your wonderings? Can you trace the path back to a memory... a current situation... something that is happening for you at this time?
 - What, if anything, might your wonderings be trying to say to you just now?

Going Deeper—Art Engagement



Gwyneth Leech is a visual artist based in New York City. In 1981, Leech went to Scotland with a scholarship to study at Edinburgh College of Art where she remained until 1999 when she returned to the US.

The detail to the left is part of a larger, ten-year mural project for St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow, Scotland. It sets the resurrection scene and the encounter between Mary and Christ in Kelvingrove Park (Glasgow). The iconic Stewart Memorial Fountain and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum offer a familiar backdrop, locating the resurrection event in the community's landscape.

When have you experienced transcendence or a holy encounter in the midst of the every day?

Notice, too, the ordinary life happening in the foreground of the image. The figures seem blind or non-impacted by the wondrous event before them.

How is this like your experience at times?

Detail from a mural by Gwyneth Leech, © G. Leech, 2019

Prayers of Intercession

Jesus Christ our Friend and Saviour, newly touched by your encouraging love, we dare to face our realities once again. As you were made alive in a new way by God, so we too are confident that we will not be undone by the suffering we experience; we will not be overcome by the struggles we face. In confidence, then, we hold our prayers in the light of your love.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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We hold in the light of your love the gifts for which we are grateful—
for gestures of kindness, for compassion made visible,
for beauty that captures our attention, for life's daily delights... *(we name them silently or aloud)*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

We hold in the light of your love the concerns we have for our world—
for the trauma and suffering at this time...
We pray for our family and friends...
We pray for ourselves...

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Disciples' Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

On this Easter Day, we remember that nothing stays the same—
life is always changing, evolving, becoming new.

Let us go forth to move with the force of Spirit
who is ever enlivening, renewing, and restoring,
who is with us forever.

The love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ and the communion of the Spirit be with you.