

10292023
The Gardener Indeed!
John 20:11-18
Shawn Reese



Mary the Witness & Messenger
Piece of Mixed Media Art by Emma Chew

Background

We gather in worship to remind ourselves who God is, what he has done in Christ and what he is doing through his Spirit. Our desire is to praise God and receive afresh his Spirit in us, to affirm that we are family reconciled one to another and to be empowered to reach out to the world.

Sermon Text: John 20:11-18 (ESV)

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one 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 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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 Aramaic,^[a] "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for 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 that he had said these things to her.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What stands out to you the most from this sermon?

2. Sermon Questions

- a. Shawn said that Lazarus had been resuscitated and Jesus had been resurrected. What is the difference of these two?
- b. Two angles situated as the two cherubim for the cover of the Ark. They symbolize Jesus is where we meet the living God and that Jesus is the atoning sacrifice. Are you amazed by the God's wonderful grace? Please share your own experience.
- c. Mary thought Jesus was the gardener. What is the significance resurrection in the garden and Jesus is the gardener?

d. Mary recognized Jesus' voice yet she could not cling to him or find his physical body. Everything has changed due to the crucifixion, resurrection and soon-to-be ascension. How do you relate to Jesus now?

e. Jesus calls his followers *brothers and sisters*. Because Jesus died and rose again, disciples could now call God "Father". This is the heart of the text. "*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...*" (John 1:12). How do we live like a family of God?