

**April 14, 2020**

**Dear Parishioners of Christ on the Mountain,**

We are in the Octave of Easter, an 8 day period in Eastertide that starts on Easter and concludes the following Sunday, this is a special time to reflect on the resurrection accounts from the four gospels.

Today we see part of John's account of the resurrection in which Mary Magdalene is outside the tomb weeping and as she wept she bent over into the tomb she saw two angels in white sitting there one at the head and one at the feet where the Body of Jesus had been (John 20:11-18) and they said to her "Woman, why are you weeping?" and she said to them "They have taken my Lord and I don't know where they laid him." Mary is consumed with her grief, even seeing the angels, cannot shake her out of the sorrow because of what she feels and thinks she has lost.

We get this way when grief and loss take over in our lives. It can be the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, the loss of our freedom that we use to experience or the loss of our security that we held so dear. When this happens we cannot see the angels that are right there. However Mary is not done moving she turned and Jesus is there, but she did not know it was him. Jesus said to her "Woman, why are you weeping?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir if you carried him away tell me where you laid him and I will take him." She is moving. She is turning. She is making room in her grief and loss to take in more information. There may be more to look at, to feel and to find. Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She has found him and the pessimism, the inconsolable grief falls from her and she responds "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

There is so much to learn from this piece of the gospel. We have to keep moving in our grief and sorrows. We must keep bending and turning as Mary did. When we do this we will see the teacher. We bend and turn into the pain, the fear, the anger, the grief and the sorrow by doing this we make room to see the angels and the Lord. We will hear our name called by him who has suffered and died for us and who is risen and who wants to share His life with us if we just keep turning. When we turn and when we bend we make room for the uncomfortable experiences in our lives. When we accept difficulties and suffering and make room for it in our lives we experience a transformation. When we resist it and do not make room for it. It comes at us stronger. Through suffering and death we reach the resurrection. This is the way of nature whether we like it or not. Mary keep turning and bending and she found the Lord. Are we willing to turn and bend?

**In the Resurrection of the Lord,**

**Fr. David**