



TREASURES OF DARKNESS

REFLECTION WEEK 5 - DAWN

BY GRACE THOMPSON

◆ About this reflection

This reflection explores the theme of hope through the story of Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb. Drawing on personal experience of neurodivergence and communication, the speaker reflects on how hope is encountered in different ways, particularly in seasons of grief, uncertainty, and darkness.

Some of the themes in this reflection may resonate deeply. Please engage at your own pace and take care of yourself as you read. Where possible, this reflection is best explored prayerfully and in community.

◆ Scripture

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.'

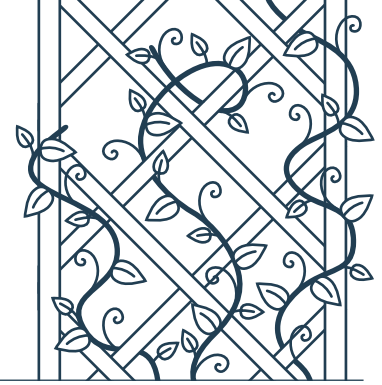
But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' 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.' 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.

John 20:1-2, 11-18 (NRSV)



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◆ Reflection

Hi my name is Grace, these are my bsl interpreters and this my communication device Aron!

Hope is a gift to be shared rather than an attitude to force on another

- Neurodivergence makes this difference even clearer as I see the world from a different perspective.
- verse 11 - But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb.
- Hope is personal. Hope will not look the same for me as it does for you, everyone is unique and hope is powerful because it's God's way of greeting us by name, where we are but also where we will be!
- "Hope is holding on to what you know is possible in God, while not knowing what your future will hold. "
- "Hope is not denial or magical thinking, hope tumbles with us in the dirt as we grasp with the trials of life. "
- "Hope is space to rest, to feel and to believe."

Mary's grieve

- Sometimes in those seasons of darkness we may not recognise the presence of God, it may feel hidden from us. In my experience hope often only becomes clear years down the line.
- "Hope is like a weed that grows in the cracks in the concrete, signally of that lie just out of sight."
- Verse 1 - 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.
- "Hope is the space where you can accept your weakness and let God's light in."
- "Hope is being present in your situation without being consumed by it"

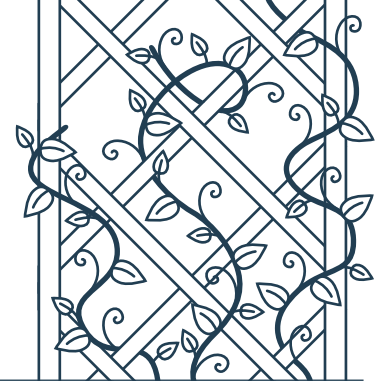
Peace is the result of hope

- "Hope is not positivity, but peace is a result of hope."
- Struggle, hardship is not a sign of God's absence and hope is when we see this.
- "General society has the idea that hope is a place of light and happiness, the experience of Mary shows that hope in fact is not synonymous with happiness.
- Hope is not about removing obstacles, disabilities or challenges but about finding a way through them.



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Community

- Angels- verse 12 and 13 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?'
- Others holding hope - can include pets.
- Hope to share, flows out from us.
- Hope in the arts as a way to share hope.
- Our hope is a witness to others, just as Mary's hope was a witness to the disciples. Just as the Spirit holds hope for the early church when they are afraid.
- In some seasons of our life we need others to hold hope for us.
- Mary is held by Jesus' hope before she recognises him.
- The early church is held by the Spirit when they are afraid.
- The disciples are held by Mary's hope when she says, "I have seen the Lord".
- Hope is not something we can do alone.
- "Hope is embodied when we are seen holistically as fully human, whole and are recognised for who we are." and "The rawest kind of hope starts in the dark, in the pain and confusion."