

Alive!



Hallelujah! He is Risen!

Enjoy this Easter Sunday greeting from Rev. Dwayne



Daily Devotional

Weekly theme: Who are you looking for?

Question: Where are you experiencing new life?

Prayer: Risen God, you bring us with you on Easter Sunday, giving us new life—a renewed hunger for faith, a louder curiosity, a more vibrant sense of self. Whatever it is for each of us, help us recognize the holiness in that newness. Help me see the gift in this season. Amen.

"Rabbouni!"



Artwork by Rev. T. Denise Anderson, inspired by [John 20:1-18](#)

In the days immediately after a loved one's passing, we often muddle through life until the closure of the funeral, when it will all—or mostly—be over. What happens when it doesn't appear you'll have that closure anytime soon, or ever? Some of us have experienced delayed burials due to difficult circumstances. The closure the funeral provides helps us begin piecing life together in our loved one's absence. Without that ritual, it's incredibly difficult to move on.

This is the space in which Mary Magdalene finds herself. She arrives at the tomb to provide burial services for her dear teacher, only to find his body is gone. What grief that must have thrown her into, having her last act of love for him arrested like that! There is no reason to expect that the stranger speaking to her is her beloved teacher, and maybe that's why she doesn't recognize him immediately. It's in the intimacy of him calling her name that she realizes what's happening.

Here, I attempt to convey the grief, befuddlement, and ultimate realization that I imagine Mary experienced in this encounter. The light source is above her, as Jesus' simple address—"Mary"—invites her to shift from any potential navel-gazing and to pay attention to the heaven-crafted phenomenon before her. Moreover, Jesus' address to her comes from a deeply intimate place and is the only thing powerful enough to pierce through her grief. She is profoundly seen and known by her teacher. I want us to behold her the way that Jesus might have in that moment.



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