

He is Risen

Lent

John 20:1-18

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

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." Then the disciples returned to their homes. 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." **John 20:2, 10, 15**

REFLECTION

Asked specifically what it meant to walk through Holy Week with a cancer diagnosis, pastor Tim Keller replied, "if the resurrection of Jesus Christ really happened, God is going to put everything right." **In the midst of your Easter experience, how much have you thought about the resurrection beyond allegory, and as something that actually happened?**

Reading [this account in John](#), you'd think it might have been a more convincing story that would change the course of history. Consider some of the holes in the story: of the nine disciples, only two go with Mary to Jesus' tomb, and one is unnamed; Jesus speaks to Mary and she thinks he is the gardener; the disciples "go back home" after finding Jesus' tomb empty. Even in the despair and confusion surrounding this first account of the risen Christ, *these were the first to believe and proclaim that Jesus was the resurrected Messiah.* **So if we believe that Jesus overcame the worst thing that could have happened to him--his life being taken away--and Jesus has dominion over that power, how is our story bound together with Jesus? How does that imply that everything is going to be "put right?"**

We typically think about Easter in terms of the comfort that the resurrection means for us in the world to come. These past few years have left us broken, battered, sad, and lost – much like the disciples. This proclamation of hope in the midst of all that is broken in our lives and the world seems the appropriate way to look at Easter this year. **What practical difference does the resurrection make to your day-to-day living? Do you trust that even when you don't have enough faith to hold onto God, that He is holding on to you through your darkest times?**