John 20:1-18

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." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

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 around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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. "I Have Seen the Lord" Cheltenham United Methodist Church April 16. 2017

> EASTER DAY Through Death to Life





PRELUDE and CANDLE LIGHTING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: What was Mary to think when she saw the empty tomb? We would have been just as frightened, just as confused; how could she expect to proclaim:

PEOPLE: I have seen the Lord!

Leader: Sure, the disciples had been told to expect some radical *oh-my-what-in-the-world-is-this happening*, but an empty tomb? How could they expect to hear Mary proclaim:

PEOPLE: I have seen the Lord!

Leader: We would have run with Peter, skeptics that we are, eyes and hearts searching for a body instead of empty burial cloths. How could any of us expect to hear Mary proclaim:

PEOPLE: I have seen the Lord!

Leader: We would have cried, too, forlorn and feeling forsaken. How could Mary expect to proclaim:

PEOPLE: I have seen the Lord!

Leader: We would not have recognized his voice, or his body; we often don't recognize Him now in the world, so how do we expect to proclaim:

PEOPLE: I have seen the Lord!

Leader: But see! He goes before us, leading us into his world, up from the grave and bondage; and he invites us to proclaim:

PEOPLE: I have seen the Lord!

ALL: With thanksgiving, we offer praise for the work you brought in Christ. We bless you for raising us in and with Jesus Christ, giving us the power to proclaim I have seen the Lord, not only with our voices, but with our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

*HYMN: "Up From the Grave He Arose!" #322 UMH

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

ANNOUNCEMENTS JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER SUNG RESPONSE: "He Is Lord" #177 UMH

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY-** *"Alleluia"* #186 UMH

ANTHEM

*SCRIPTURE READING- John 20:1-18

*HYMN – "He Lives!" #310 UMH SERMON – "I Have Seen the Lord" *HYMN – "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #302 UMH

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE– "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" #2088 TFWS



Hymns can be found in the *TFWS* – *The Faith We Sing* and UMH- *United Methodist Hymnal*

*Please stand as you are able.

If you are visiting our church service today, we want you to know that we are glad you are here!

We invite **everyone** to join us down stairs after worship for a time of fellowship.