

## PRAYER IN THE EASTER SEASON

**Leader:** Oh sing to God a new song!

**All:** For God had done marvelous things!

**Leader:** Because of God's steadfast love,

**All:** All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Leader:** For now is Christ risen from the dead!

**All:** Make a joyful noise to God all the earth!

**Leader:** Break forth into joyous songs and praises.

**All:** For God will rule the world with righteousness. And nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus our Risen Savior.

**Reading:** **John 20: 11-18**

### Response

**Leader:** Christ our Life, you are alive...

**All:** in the beauty of the earth, in the rhythm of the seasons, in the mystery of time and space. Alleluia!

**Leader:** Christ our Life, you are alive...

**All:** in the tenderness of touch, in the heartbreak of intimacy, in the insights of solitude. Alleluia!

**Leader:** Christ our Life, you are alive...

**All:** to offer re-creation to every unhealed hurt, every deadened place, every damaged heart. Alleluia!

**Leader: Let us pray together,**

Gracious Source of Life, we do not always accept the new growth within us. We confess that often we do not see the beauty that is in this world for us to enjoy. We do not always recognize the love that is offered to us each day. We are often too busy with our own tasks to see if they fit in with your plans. We do not always embrace new-found joy, for then we might not feel sorry for ourselves. Sometimes we afraid to risk, to turn the corner, to empty the cup, to dance. Forgive us for those times, O God, and help us to accept the astounding grace of resurrection. Amen.

## MARY OF MAGDALA

JOHN 20: 11-18

But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and she said to him. "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him, "Rabboni", which means teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father, to my God and your God." Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" and what he told her.

- Sit with Mary Magdalene and let her share her memories with you of what it was like to share life, friendship and ministry with Jesus during his Life. How was Mary a gift to Jesus? How was she a gift to the Apostles and disciples of Jesus?
- Ask Mary to share her love for Jesus with you and how you might love him more deeply.
- Imagine Mary's encounter with the Risen Jesus. How did she feel when he called her name? Ask her to help you to proclaim in word and deed: "I have seen the Lord!" Ask Mary what it was like to live in the light of her Risen Lord.
- What gift did Mary offer to the early Christian Community?

What gift does Mary offer today to women of faith?