

## Call to Worship

Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

*(Luke 8 .1-3)*

**Hymn**      **StF 441**      As water to the thirsty (Music David Haas)      (3:34)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92F7ukhF4rE>

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God,  
whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body  
and called her to be a witness to his resurrection:  
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,  
that we may serve you in the power of his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come;  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen

## Introduction

**Hymn**      **StF 292**      After darkness, light      (1:54)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDwi-EIY6g&t=2s>

**Reflection Resurrection Encounters : Mary Magdalene** *(by Lisa Debney)*

All was tears  
even the grass  
wept with dew.

Swift rain,  
fell,

not the racked  
agony of yesterday

But gentle  
sorrow  
falling from between  
closed eyelashes.

All was tears,  
soaking every sense  
and sound,

falling damp  
to earth  
where life  
seemed buried.

All was tears;  
but when at last  
in soft surprise  
the eyes were lifted,

they opened  
onto paradise;  
washed  
restored  
made clear  
by weeping.

**Reading 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 towards 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 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.

## Talk

**Hymn**      **StF 296**      Christ has risen while earth slumbers      (3:56)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgTDemu84MU>

## Prayers

O God of our desire,  
 in the strangeness of searching  
 at a place beyond hope,  
 waiting to understand  
 what we cannot bear to think of,  
 we put our trust in you:

### **For death shall have no dominion**

In the strangeness of recognition  
 of the selves we have become  
 at the return of the beloved  
 when the face of love has changed,  
 we put our trust in you

### **For death shall have no dominion**

In the strangeness of separation,  
when we refrain from touching;  
when we are blessed with freedom,  
and invited to let go,  
we put our trust in you

**For death shall have no dominion**

In the strangeness of joy,  
when we are offered a new name,  
a redeemed authority,  
and a fresh surrender,  
we put our trust in you:

**For death shall have no dominion**

**Closing Prayer**

God of life and love,  
whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name  
and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his apostles:  
in your mercy, help us,  
to proclaim the good news  
that he is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever  
Amen

**Hymn**      **StF 483**      We are marching in the light of God      (2:47)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl24\\_27wW1E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl24_27wW1E)

**The Grace**