

Weekly Meditation by Rev. Teri Lubbers
April 20, 2010

Don't Be Afraid To Look

Early the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance...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 other at the feet. They said to her, "Why are you weeping?"

How curious that when two of Jesus' disciples look into the empty tomb they see only the empty tomb and the grave clothes, but when Mary looks into the empty tomb she sees angels...and they speak to her. I can't help but wonder, were the angels there when Peter and John went in? Did they just show up when Mary looked in? Were they there all the time but only Mary had eyes to see what the others could not? I do not know, but I wonder.

Light has not quite dawned when Mary shows up to care for the body of the Teacher whom she loved. Certainly dawning speaks of the physical sunrise, of the visible light, but it also speaks as metaphor. "While it was still dark" is an experience I know about, and probably you do as well. We frequently have to show up for our lives while it is still dark, when the path ahead is completely unknown to us, or when we believe that there is no path ahead. And we find ourselves fearful and distraught until something or someone poses the question to us, "Why are you weeping?"

Imagine Mary's surprise and confusion, wonder and dread, when she shows up expecting to see Jesus' body, but finds angels instead. She shows up expecting to find death - of her friend, her hopes, and her dreams - only to find a dimension of reality beyond her comprehension or recognition.

Death never gets the final word... it just becomes the fertile ground from which life comes forth once more. Nothing, not even death can quench love. And transforming love - love we have not imagined possible - is at work, here, now, in you, in me. Don't be afraid to look.

Prayer: Beloved, guide us and be a light when the path seems dark. Remind our hearts that nothing can quench your life and your love...open our eyes to see your messengers that surround us. Amen.