



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Reimagining Resurrection

Speaker: Shauna Rushing, Pastor of Small Group and Communities

Scripture: John 20:11-18

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for? Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

We all experience change in our lives, which can take place every 12-18 months. How do you feel when you experience change in your life? What about the changes in your life that catch you off guard, ones that you were not expecting or that completely knocked you off your feet?

In today's scripture, Mary Magdalene is going through a "lifequake" event. We find Mary next to the garden tomb, experiencing grief and desolation finding the tomb empty and not knowing what has happened to Jesus.

Mary and the disciples did not know how to handle witnessing Jesus's torturous and devastating death and now not knowing where his body was. In response to this, the disciples ran and hid but it was the women who remained and staying close to Jesus, Mary Magdalene being one of them.

- Remain Close to Jesus
- Recognized & Grieve Your Loss
- Reimagine in Light of the Resurrection

The reality is that we have a hope in Resurrection and that all the disappointments, loss and change that take place in our lives do not have the final word. The new creation in life and what the new Gardner is bringing among us is what is happening, even when we aren't able to see it.

Resurrection can only come in dying. It is hard and beautiful road that we walk with Him. No matter what you might be going through right now, Jesus wants you to reimagine new life and possibilities.

God our good Gardner is making all things new. May he give us eyes to see it.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Shauna Rushing, Pastor of Small Groups and Communities, leads us in our sermon Reimagining Resurrection. Today Pastor Shauna explores what it could like for us to reimagine what resurrection means for our lives in seasons of transitions, loss, and pain.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. How does the story of Mary Magdalene speak to you?

3. What changes or disruptions are you experiencing in your life right now or have you experienced in the recent past?
4. How have you handled challenging changes or life quakes in your life? Were you able to stay close to Jesus or did you find yourself at a distance and looking to other people and things to cope?
5. What is Jesus inviting you to reimagine in light of his resurrection?