

STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

Seeking: Who are you looking for?

"Easter is the moment when the beginning meets the end."

- Joy J. Moore

PRELUDE *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* *Lyra Davidica/*
Donna & Loren Rhodes arr. Jeff Bennett

WELCOME Pastor Ben

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Faithful ones, grieving ones, expectant ones,
ones who love Jesus, we are still seeking

**All: Like Mary, lingering by the tomb,
we hear the question:**

One: What are you looking for?

All: The light before dawn

One: What are you looking for?

All: A reason to hope.

One: What are you looking for?

All: A place to belong.

One: What are you looking for?

All: We are looking for the Messiah.

One: Hear the good news! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia!

*SONG *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*^{^^} 280 vs. 1,2,5

POEM *She Knew Then...* Belle Tuten
By Brooke Meadows

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Pastor Cindy

SCRIPTURE READING John 20: 1-16a Brooke Meadows

ANTHEM

In Remembrance[^]

Elanor Daley

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I am alive.

SCRIPTURE READING John 20: 16b-18 Brooke Meadows

*SONG *Proclaim the Tidings Near and Far*^{^^} 282

POEM *Blackout Poem: John 20* Belle Tuten
By Jeremy Uhrich

TIME OF PRAYER

SHARING Pastor Ben

MUSICAL *That Easter Day was Joy* arr. Hal Hopson
REFLECTION *was Bright* Loren Rhodes

PRAYER Pastor Ben

SONG *Thine Is The Glory*^{^^} 269 vs. 1,3

MESSAGE Still Seeking Pastor Cindy

ANTHEM *Hallelujah!*[^] Handel

SENDING Pastor Cindy

*POSTLUDE *The Strife is O'er* arr. Hall Hopson
Loren Rhodes

^{*}Please Rise, as Able, in Body or Spirit

[^]Music reprinted with permission under One License # A-723165

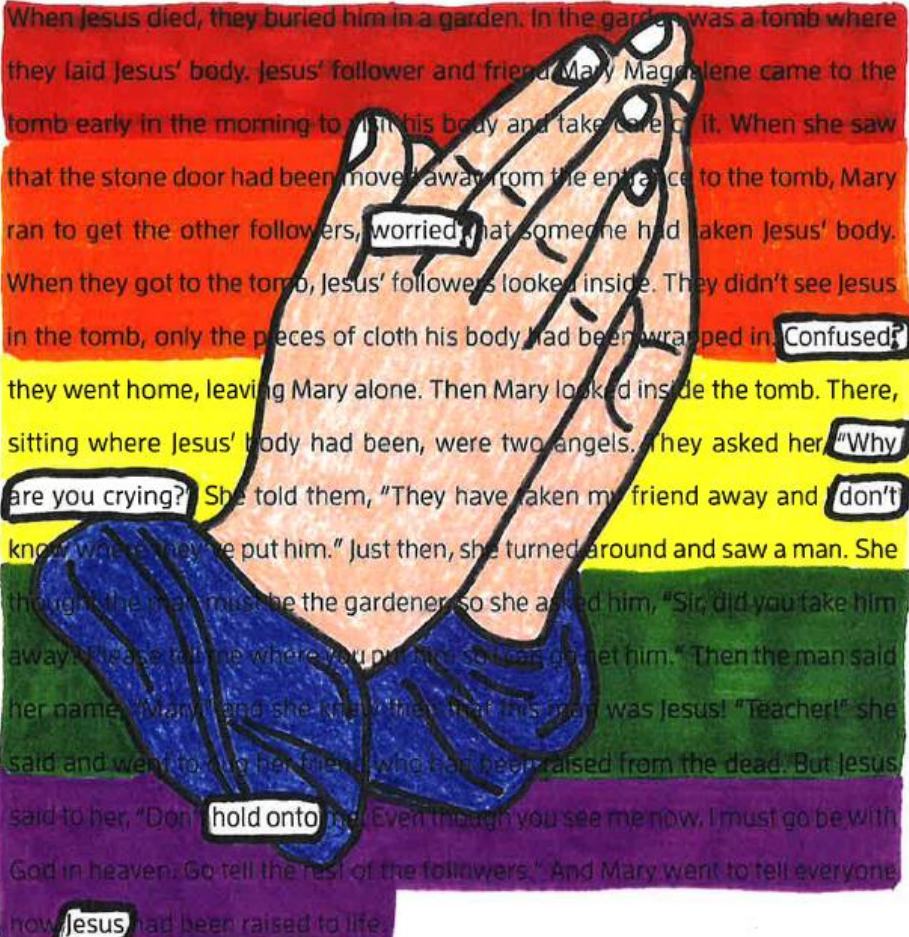
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seeking: Who are you looking for?

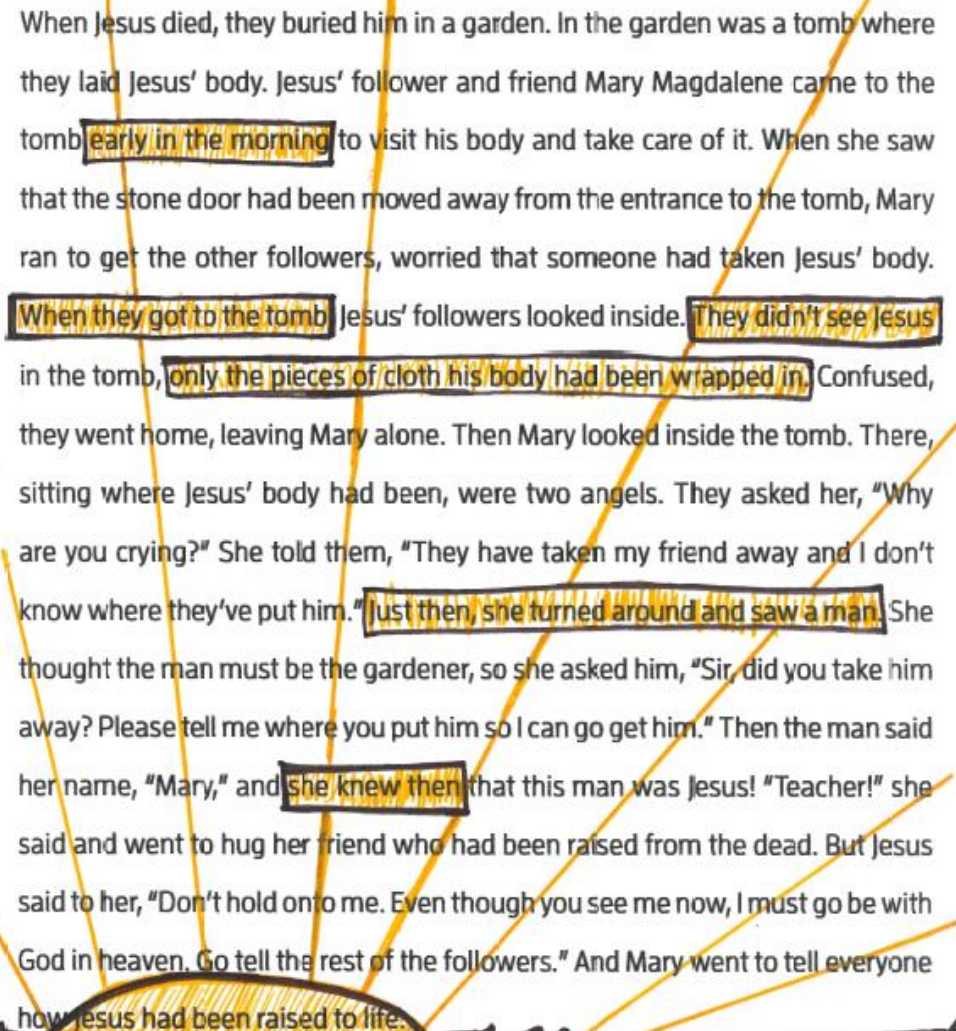
blackout poetry

Below is a creative retelling of John 20:1-18, written by Rev. Anna Strickland. As you read the story, use a black marker or pen to underline or circle the words and phrases that speak to you. Then, blackout the rest of the words on the page. From the words that remain, you may find that a new message, poem, or image emerges. Visit this link to view examples of blackout poetry: pinterest.com/sanctifiedart/blackout-poetry-ideas



When Jesus died, they buried him in a garden. In the garden was a tomb where they laid Jesus' body. Jesus' follower and friend Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning to visit his body and take care of it. When she saw that the stone door had been moved away from the entrance to the tomb, Mary ran to get the other followers, worried that someone had taken Jesus' body. When they got to the tomb, Jesus' followers looked inside. They didn't see Jesus in the tomb, only the pieces of cloth his body had been wrapped in. Confused, they went home, leaving Mary alone. Then Mary looked inside the tomb. There, sitting where Jesus' body had been, were two angels. They asked her, "Why are you crying?" She told them, "They have taken my friend away and I don't know where they've put him." Just then, she turned around and saw a man. She thought the man must be the gardener, so she asked him, "Sir, did you take him away? Please tell me where you put him so I can go get him." Then the man said her name, "Mary," and she knew then that this man was Jesus! "Teacher!" she said and went to hug her friend who had been raised from the dead. But Jesus said to her, "Don't hold onto me. Even though you see me now, I must go be with God in heaven. Go tell the rest of the followers." And Mary went to tell everyone how Jesus had been raised to life.

She Knew then...
Blackout Poetry by Brooke Meadows
from a creative retelling of
John 20:1-18,
Written by Rev. Anna Strickland



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seeking:

Who are you looking for?

Easter Sunday | Year A

MAIN IDEA: Jesus is always with us.



SCRIPTURE SUMMARY

John 20:1-18

Then Mary looked inside the tomb. There, sitting where Jesus' body had been, were two angels. Then the man said her name, "Mary," and she knew then that this man was Jesus! "Teacher!" she said. And Mary went to tell everyone how Jesus had been raised to life.

"Rabbouni!"

by T. Denise Anderson, inspired by today's gospel text, John 20:1-18



seeking in images

flip to the cover artwork & take a closer look!

Imagine you are in the artwork. Where would you be? Why?

Jesus tells Mary she can't hold onto him because he has to go to heaven. Are there people you love who aren't with you anymore? How do you keep them in your heart?

Look at the person in the picture. What emotions do you see in the person's face?



star

The Seeking logo was designed by Lauren Wright Pittman. Do you see the star? Mary comes to the tomb while it is still dark. The star represents the glistening of recognition in her eye when she realizes who Jesus is. **Color the star in the graphic above.**

