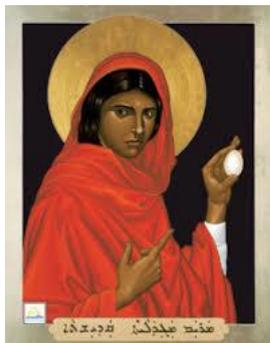


Chelmsford Cathedral – Prayer for Today

THURSDAY, 22 July 2020

MARY MAGDALENE



O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise!

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.
Words from Zephaniah 3.20

As you enter into prayer today, take a moment to be still. Come into God's presence with a deepfelt desire to meet with God now. Know that God is the God who sees you and that God is looking at you now with great love. Pause for a moment and be still.

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.

Mary Magdalene is called “the Apostle to the Apostles” in the tradition, and in all the Gospels she is the first witness to the resurrection. Mary Magdalene figures regularly in the New Testament. She was not a prostitute. That is never even hinted at in the New Testament. She was one of the women who accompanied Jesus and the 12 disciples on their journeys and who provided for them out of their resources. But it is this encounter with the risen Christ that we invited to cherish and reflect on today. Mary’ journey from desolation to hope is exactly the promise that the Lord extends to us.

John 20.1-2,11-18

Mary Magdalene 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.

*Spend some time reflecting on the reading, mulling it over.
Ask God what God wants you to hear today.*

*Offer your personal prayers and thanksgivings
and offer the day to God in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving.*

End this time of prayer by saying the Lord’s Prayer.

*To keep in touch and for more resources for daily prayer
Please visit chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk*