

I love our Easter sunrise service because we get to enter into the two Mary's experience a little more literally.

We each woke up before the sun rose, when it was still dark and damp with night, so that we could gather together, here, at dawn in our quiet St. James garden.

We each have come with our own stories, perhaps our own quiet anticipation as well as our own longings. We may share a longing to hear for ourselves the angel's words that were spoken at the tomb to the two Marys, whether we're hearing them for the first time, or we've heard them many times: "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

And we did! We came this morning to see for ourselves that Jesus is risen, and death does not have the final say. After the two Marys look into the tomb and find it empty the angel tells them that Jesus has already gone ahead of them to Galilee, and to go tell the other disciples.

So, the two Marys leave the tomb quickly with great fear and joy, running—to again—see for themselves and share the good news of resurrection with the other disciples.

Today, we are also recipients of the two Marys' angelic message that Jesus is risen, his wounds have been healed, his life is restored, and he is walking among us! And this has great implications for our own lives. Through Jesus' resurrection we are given confidence that our own wounds can be healed. Every part of us—and the world we live in, and all of creation can be brought back to fullness of life. The Spirit of Christ is living and breathing in us and holding us all together, now and into eternity.

So, may we go forward on this Easter morning claiming the power of our resurrected life in Christ, and anticipating all of the unexpected ways we will encounter Jesus just up ahead.