

April 1st, 2018

Year B; Easter Sunday

Isaiah 25: 6-9

Psalms 118

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

John 20: 1-18

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

As I worked on this sermon yesterday....a phrase kept going through my head...a phrase that arose from spending a lot of time thinking during this holy week about desolation and hope...about death and resurrection...thinking about Mary Magdalene at the tomb....crying...so alone...

With Jesus right in front of her...unable to recognize him...looking at him but not seeing him...unable to know him when he stood there...unable to know him when he spoke...the light only shining through...when he said her name...Mary...Mary!

That phrase kept running through my mind....really in the back of my mind....singing it.....or saying it...where did it come from??.....I know....but I can't put my finger quite on it.....

“...its been a long cold lonely winter.....”

True for Mary Magdalene...grieving for her friend and teacher, her Jesus.....and true for all of us.....it has been a long winter....definitely in body...and maybe for you....maybe for me.....in mind and spirit too....

Night before last, on Friday....Tim and I ran a few errands in Kilmarnock in the late afternoon, and then drove to Burgess for dinner at Newsomes....

In Kilmarnock the car temp said it was 80 degrees out....warm and lovely but a wind picking up and yes...by the time we got to Burgess....the car temp said 60 degrees and 50 by the time we ate, and 35 degrees again on Saturday morning!....One warm day and then back to the long underwear!

Yes.....“its been a long cold lonely winter.....”

And walking through Holy Week....from palms and hosannas....to “were you there when they crucified my Lord”

Yes a long cold lonely winter.....as they laid him in the tomb....

Where did that phrase come from??? Going around and around in my head.....so of course...I google it....and duh!

That great theologian...George Harrison!

I was missing the start of the line:

*Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here*

Now it might be easy...too easy right now to connect the Son of God and the next line.....

Do you know it???

*Here comes the sun, here comes the sun
And I say it's all right..*

But I am not going to do that!

No, right now we have to go back to Mary...weeping at the tomb...at a point that is beyond despair.....hope is shrouded and all she can see is death...

That long cold lonely winter...that kept going through my head as I thought of Mary....such desolation.....and so alone.....

She sees 2 angels and she still sees death....she sees Jesus and she still sees death....She hears his voice....and all she can hear is death....

Mary is at her lowest point, hanging on by her last thread...trying to do the one thing she can now...give Jesus a decent burial and now she can not even find the body...All she is looking for his body.....

But as that other great theologian, Frederick Buechner, said: "...the worst thing is never the last thing" whatever our lowest point, our rock bottom....our deaths....there is always more...even for us...in this life and the life to come.....the worst is never the last.....

And so finally, Mary hears her name....Hears her name being called out...the voice so dear and so familiar.....and...ok, turns out I can't resist saying it...

Here comes the sun/Son!

The light does shine in the darkness and the darkness will never ever put it out!

Run and tell the others! I have seen the Lord, I have seen the sun/Son!!

Alleluia!!! Alleluia!!

Amen.

The Reverend Megan Limburg