



Women at the Cross and Tomb

The women whom Jesus heals and frees in Galilee become his disciples, provide for him and his men disciples out of their resources, and accompany him to Jerusalem. They witness Jesus' crucifixion. **"All his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things"** (Luke 23.49). The women follow Joseph of Arimathea to the tomb where he lays Jesus' body.

On the first day after Sabbath, the women take spices to the tomb and find it open. Two men in dazzling clothes ask, **"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again. Then they remembered his words."** The women remember Jesus spoke these prophetic words on the way to Jerusalem. Jesus taught both his women and men disciples.

The women tell the eleven apostles and Jesus' other followers what they have seen and heard. **"Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them"** (Luke 24.1-10).



*How do you practice resurrection in your life?
Toward what ends do you use your creativity? How
might you create new solutions to persistent problems?*

**Mary Magdalene, Joanna,
Mary the mother of James,
your faithfulness leads you to Jesus' open tomb.
You are first to hear, "He has been raised!"
You remember words Jesus spoke on the way
to Jerusalem, fearful words that perplexed you,
about being handed over but rising on the third day.
The apostles dismiss the good news you report.**

**Holy women, full of grace as we are, pray for us.
Help us create new possibilities for old hates.
Help us heal and repair our planet home
so your Easter continues to be our spring.
Let us awaken to the holy in each new day.**