

2012 Holy Week and Easter Reflections

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'Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns.' St Clement of Alexandria

To be still we place ourselves in the presence of God...

For a few moments, I think of God's veiled presence in things:
in the elements, giving them existence;
in plants, giving them life; in animals, giving them sensation;
and finally, in me, giving me all this and more,
making me a temple, a dwelling-place of the Spirit.

We reflect on our freedom...

During this Holy Week
I ask for the grace to believe
in what I could be and do
if I only allowed God, my loving Creator,
to continue to create me, guide me and shape me.

We reflect on our consciousness

In God's loving presence I unwind the past few weeks of Lent,
starting from now and looking back, moment by moment.
I gather in all the goodness and light, in gratitude.
I attend to the shadows and what they say to me,
seeking healing, courage, forgiveness.

Lighting of candles... *light a candle(s) in your home to symbolise the light of Christ.*

We reflect on The Word...

I read the Word of God slowly and in silence, and I listen to what God is saying to me.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that

Jesus had to rise from the dead.)
John 20:1-9

What are you saying to me, Lord? - Spiritual exercise

- a) Imagine you are running to the tomb with Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and the other disciple - what are your thoughts right now?
- b) Where in your life does a stone need to be rolled away or a tomb opened?
- c) What does the phrase *he saw and believed* say to your faith today?
- d) Where in your heart is your Easter joy?

An Easter Prayer

The stone has been rolled away.
The tomb is empty.
Their tears flow again,
as they wonder what happened to the body.
Angels appear and ask,
"Why are you weeping?"
Then Jesus appears and speaks to them.
Filled with wonder and joy,
the women run to tell the others,
"We have seen the Lord."

He lives! Alleluia!

from 'The Women' by Marjorie

A Burke

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen***