Chapter 1: Mary Magdalene

Get Connected: Share any hopes or expectations you have for engaging in this Lenten study journey.

Scripture: John 20:11-16 NIV
Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"
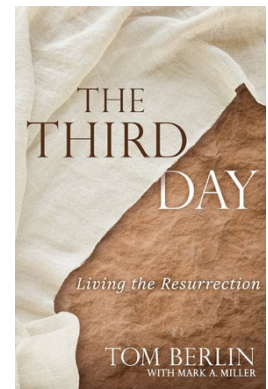
"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

[Watch Video](#): Rev. Katie Ricke, chair of Dakotas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Yankton, S.D.

Discussion Questions:
1. Have you ever experienced the weight of grief and what have you done to process through that difficult time?
2. Do you believe that Jesus truly has power over the things that give us fear and anxiety? What are those things and what might it look like for Jesus to have power over them?
3. How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope in the face of our own demons, fears and challenges?

Closing Prayer: Loving and Gracious God, We give you thanks for the ways in which you meet us in our needs. Open our eyes to your presence, your power, and your love as we carry heavy burdens of grief, doubt and fear. Help us to remember that just as you have the power over death itself, you have the power to work good in our lives regardless of our circumstances. May we embrace the new life and purpose we have been given through your grace. Amen.

Suggested Hymns:
UMH #134   Mary Don't You Weep
UMH #214   In the Garden
UMH #375   There is a Balm in Gilead