



## Grain

"We must make our selves and our relationships with each other anew. This is the beginning of the new world. Only when we are no longer slaves, but also no longer desire to be masters and to make our former masters into slaves, can we lay the foundation foundation for the world to come." –Dr. Rosemary Radford Ruether

## Fields

24But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8Then they remembered his words, 9and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. Luke 24:1-12

## Thoughts

At this time in our church calendar, I often reflect on the ways we can misuse the story of Jesus' crucifixion. A couple of years ago, I had a chat about this with one of our webinar speakers, Cheryl Kato, a therapist and the executive director of the Rainbow Project (for abused children). I mentioned that there was a history of abusive individuals using scripture and Jesus' suffering to control their spouses. She said that it was still common for abusers to use the Bible and the cross to instruct their targets to be docile and forgiving. But the cross was the result of Jesus' resisting evil, not internal complicity.

Jesus' ability to be centered in God's love, as many turned away from him, goes beyond what most of us can imagine. His final triumph was astonishing even though he had earlier told his followers to expect it. Was it his resurrection, or the unjust powers that seemed so invincible not having the last word that was overwhelming? The bullies and warmongers of the world did not define everything after all. Hope was tangible and was uncontained by tired notions about who got to have it or to whom the news about the resurrection would be given first.

Theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether spoke her words quoted above in the context of telling the story of Mary finding the empty tomb "and realizing our grasping at fantasies of power and revenge were in vain and that something greater awaited us." It's that love of God in the resurrection, not the collusion with lies, that stirs in us the power of forgiveness and renewed energy to seek justice.

Where are you realizing resurrection hope in your context? Have a blessed Holy Week. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy