Week Seven: March 30
Writer: Rev. Dr. Andrew Park, Professor of Theology and Ethics

Text: John 20:16–18

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection:

When Jesus called Mary’s name, she turned and greeted him “Rabbouni.” In Aramaic, “Rabbouni” is “my teacher,” indicating a human master. Jesus told her not to hold on to Him because He had not yet ascended to the Father. No one surely knows why Jesus told Mary not to hold on to Him. Jesus could mean to tell Mary not to cling to His flesh but to start a fresh relationship with Him by telling His resurrection to His brothers.

When we meet the risen Jesus, we should be different, developing a new relationship with Jesus. Anyone who meets the risen Jesus cannot cling to one’s own hopeless and unenchanted past, but should become new; “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Personal Prayer:

Dear Living God, when I am despondent and broken, help me stop cleaving to my dejected and broken past.

Community Prayer Focus:

May we be new Marys to those who are crying in the dark.

Meeting Idea:

Tell people your experience of meeting the risen Jesus.