

Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, March 27 7:30am Browndale Park

Rev. Howard K. Bell

Homily

The homily is based on the a poem “The Answer” by R.S. Thomas and on a scripture text from the Gospel of John 18: 1- 20.

Theologian Barbara Lundblad says of the author of “The Answer” – R. S.Thomas: *“He was an Anglican priest whose poems are often as bleak as the Welsh landscape where he ministered. In this excerpt from his poem we hear a glimmer of resurrection breaking through: “*

... There have been times
when, after long on my knees
in a cold chancel, a stone has rolled
from my mind, and I have looked
in and seen the old questions lie
folded and in a place
by themselves, like the piled
graveclothes of love’s risen body.

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.”

Early on the first day of the week - on March 27, 2016 – soon after it has become light – for this “almost sunrise Easter service – we have come to Browndale Park, to remember Mary Magadelene’s visit to the tomb – or have we come to imagine and ponder what stone might need to be rolled from our minds.?

We have come to remember Mary’s great surprise – or have we come to imagine what new ideas or beliefs we might find when we look into our minds with a stone rolled away. Let us think about who from our faith community or from our lives, we might run to - as Mary did - to tell about what she discovered. Can we imagine our friends, family, or other members of the congregation running in a race to make new discoveries for themselves?

We have come together today to remember how Mary wept at the tomb – or have we come to allow our tears to flow today for those things that we have lost and those thing for which we need to grieve?

We have come together today to remember how Mary spoke with the angels; how Mary questioned the man she assumed to be the gardener and then did not recognize him as Jesus until Jesus spoke her name – or, have we come to ask the gardener our questions that we discovered in our unlocked minds? - or have we

Marche 27 Sunrise

come to hear Jesus say our name?

We have come together today to remember how Mary called the resurrected Jesus “Rabbouni! (which means teacher) – or have we come to learn from Jesus as our Rabbouni! (which means teacher?

We have come together today to remember that Mary announced to the disciples I have seen the Lord , or have we come experience resurrection in our own lives? May it be so.