

Easter Dawn

‘Woman, why are you weeping?’
Who is it that you are looking for?’

John 20.15

*(The words of the ‘Gardener’ to Mary
Magdalene, near the empty tomb.)*

Easter is not a party time for everyone – but it is the moment when the question, ‘Why are you weeping?’ can turn your night into day – when the hand of hope can take you from the garden of tears into the garden of new life.

During Lent we wondered about Women of Faith, who appeared in our scripture readings. Now, at Easter, we see Mary Magdalene’s footsteps in the garden of transformation.

Malcolm Guite, poet-priest, finds words to shape the moment...

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He blesses every love that weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love’s
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question, ‘Why,
Why are you weeping?’, or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply,
‘They took my love away, my day is night.’
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

*(Malcolm Guite will be speaking at
Newcastle Cathedral on 2nd May)*



Dawn. Chapel at Alnmouth Friary.