

John's gospel is all about Mary Magdalene being the first to preach the gospel; or, as I like to say, Mary Magdalene was the one to go tell it. There's something sacred, something holy, in Easter morning. The scripture readings chosen for this morning are actually for Saturday evening, but we read them Easter morning because I want to tell the story of God's steadfast love for God's people.

People gather in church to hear the preacher say, "***He is Risen***" so that they may respond, "***He is risen indeed!***" Then comes the sermons about death having no hold on Jesus and how today believers gather around the world to celebrate God's saving work in our lives. The tomb is empty...salvation is near.

But there is more to the story. There's the story of Mary Magdalene, the first preacher of the good news, who ran to the disciples to go tell it. And for me, a woman preacher standing on Mary Magdalene's shoulders, it is my job to share with you that now is the time each of you to ***go tell it***.

The tomb is empty and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

Salvation is here and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

Love has conquered death and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

Peace is here and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

Steadfast love is here and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

Transformation is here and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

A way out of no way is here and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

Healing is here and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

Restoration is here and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

The kin-dom is here and it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

For those who are sick, it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

For those who are oppressed, it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

For those who live between a rock and a hard place, it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

For those who have been waiting to be blessed, it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

For those who have lost hope, it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

For those who have never had mercy, it's time for you to ***go tell it***.

God's saving work isn't a secret...and we are all preachers in Mary Magdalene's tradition. We all have a part in God's saving work on earth. Our first job...***go tell it***. And then, because in God's kin-dom there's always an "and then," we are called to go do it.

We are also called to go do the saving work that Jesus Christ has taught us. We are called to be hope. We are called to be mercy. We are called to be peace. We are called to be a blessing. We are called to be agents of transformation. We are called bring healing to the sick, sight to the blind, clothes to the naked, a way out of no way, water to the thirsty, a voice crying out in the wilderness, the breath of life, a rock on whom the church is built, preachers, teachers, leaders, and proclaimers. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to be the ones to ***go tell it***, go do it, and go be it.

When our cries "***He is risen***"... "***He is risen indeed!***" reach the highest of the heavens, they reach God almighty as cries of people who worship and serve and who know God's steadfast, everlasting, all powerful, all knowing, all merciful, grace-filled love and whose ministry and mission in this world begins with walking out the doors of this building to ***go tell it***.