

Good morning. I would like to share with you my reflections about being a woman in the church today. I'm here because I feel the need to be here. It's Women's History Month and I thought about Mary Magdalene, who spoke the first gospel. I thought about MM because she was there. Why MM? Why not Peter? We all know they were in the Upper Room hiding, stunned and heartbroken. Afraid. But wasn't Mary afraid? Perhaps - but she was there. MM witnessed Joseph of Arimathea placing Jesus in the tomb (Matthew 27:61) / Jesus appeared first to MM (Mark 16:9-11) and from John 20: 14-18 : Having said this she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardner, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her "Mary" She turned and said to him in Aramaic, Rabbonni! (which means teacher) Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father, but go to my brothers and say to them, I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." MM went and announced to the disciples, I have seen the Lord and that he had said these things to her. She then speaks her testimony to the others," I have seen the Lord."

I am here because she was there. You are here because she was there. We're here because she was there.