RESPOND MARY MAGDALENE

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-Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork. Sit still in quiet meditation as you observe the visual qualities of what you see: color, line texture, movement, shape, form. Now take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you overlook? Now engage your imagination. What story do you give to the figure?

reflect

- The oldest manuscripts of Mark's gospel ended with the women seized in fear In verse 8. The shorter and longer endings of the chapter were appended at a later date. What if the story of the resurrection ended with verse 8? How would that change what we know about Christ's resurrection?
- The gospels name Mary Magdalene over a dozen times, she helped fund Jesus' ministry (see Luke 8: 2-3), she had demons cast out of her, and she was the first person to witness the resurrected Christ. Why do you think Mary Magdaline was such a prominent figure? What do you imagine her relationship to Christ was like?
- Name a situation in the present or past where proclaimed a message that was widely disbelieved. How do we believe those who seem unbelievable?

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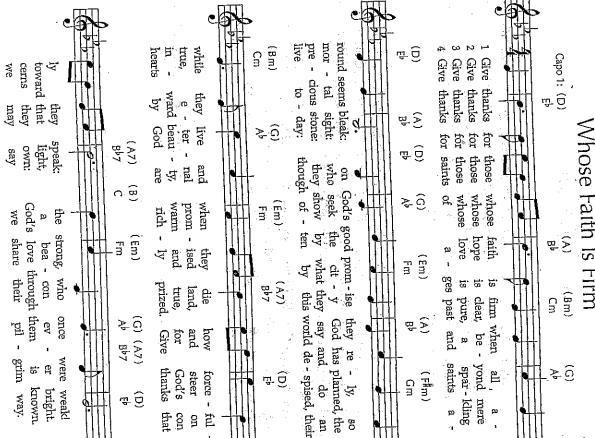
In Aramaic, "Magdala" means "watchtower" or "fortress." In the space below, name the attributes and actions that make one a fortress of strength as a disciple

pray

God of the unbelievable, make me a fortress of strength through my willingness to discover your grace. Amen.

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

731 Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The first three stanzas of this text are organized around the three great virtues—faith, hope, and love—mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:13. These have indeed been the marks of the faithful people of God always and everywhere, and the final stanza sums up our grathfude for them.