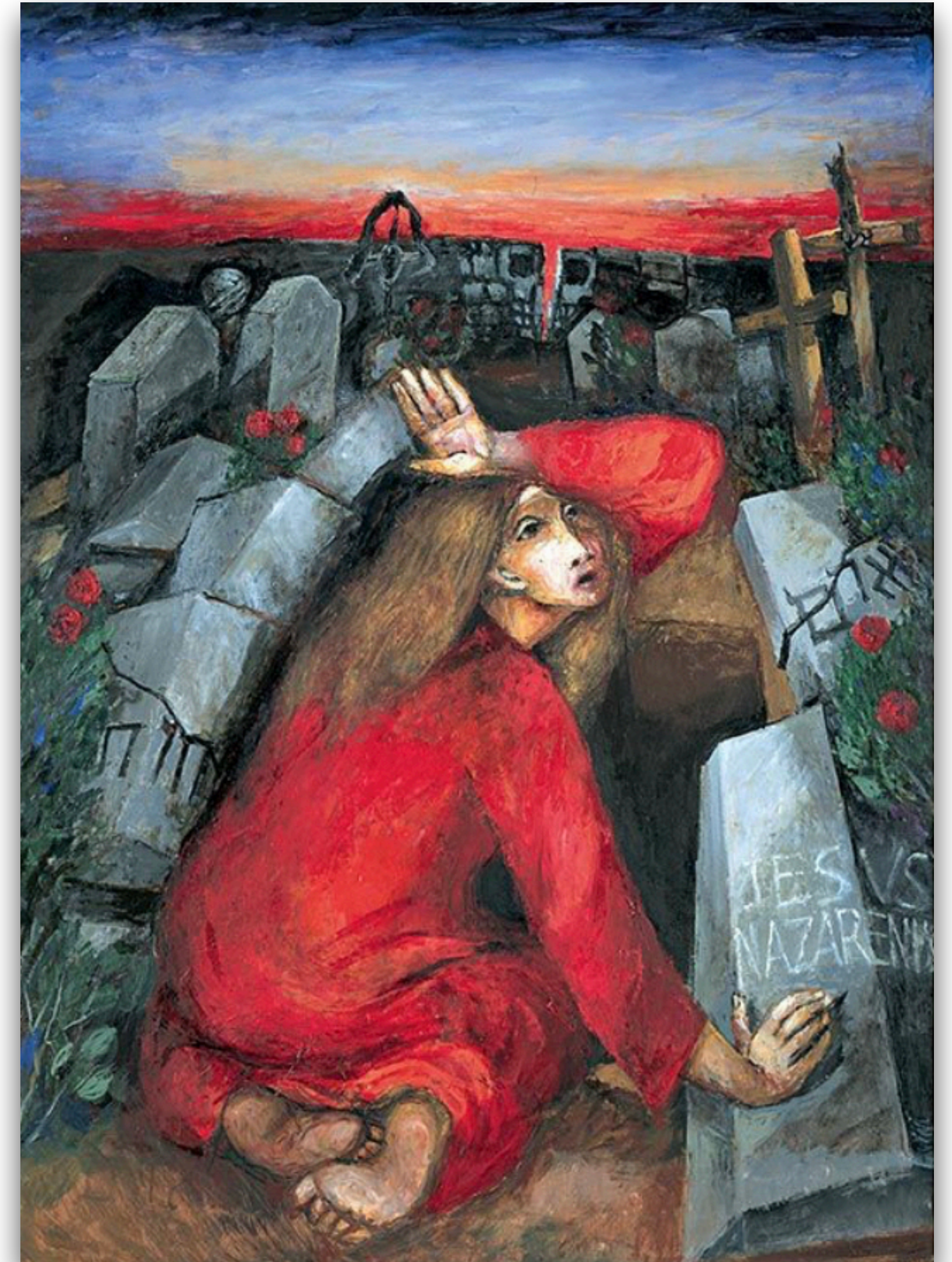


Mary



# READ

- You might like to read John 20: 11-18 or listen to it [here](#).
- The name Mary is rooted in the Hebrew name Miriam
- The possible meanings of the name Mary are multiple including 'bitterness' and 'star of the sea'.
- There are a number of stories that talk of a Mary in scripture.
  - Naomi, who in her sorrow said she should be called Mara (Ruth)
  - Mary, the mother of Jesus ( Matthew 1)
  - Mary of Bethany (John 11)
  - Mary of Magdala (John 20)
  - Mary the sister of Martha (Luke 10)
  - Mary of Cleopas (John 19)
  - Mary the mother of James and Joses ( Matthew 27)
  - Mary, the mother of John Mark ( Acts 12)
  - The other Mary (Matthew 28)
  - Mary of Rome (Romans 16)
- Mary of Magdala, who supported Jesus in his ministry, was the first to see him after the resurrection. She was told by Jesus to 'Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" " John 20:14-17 NIV

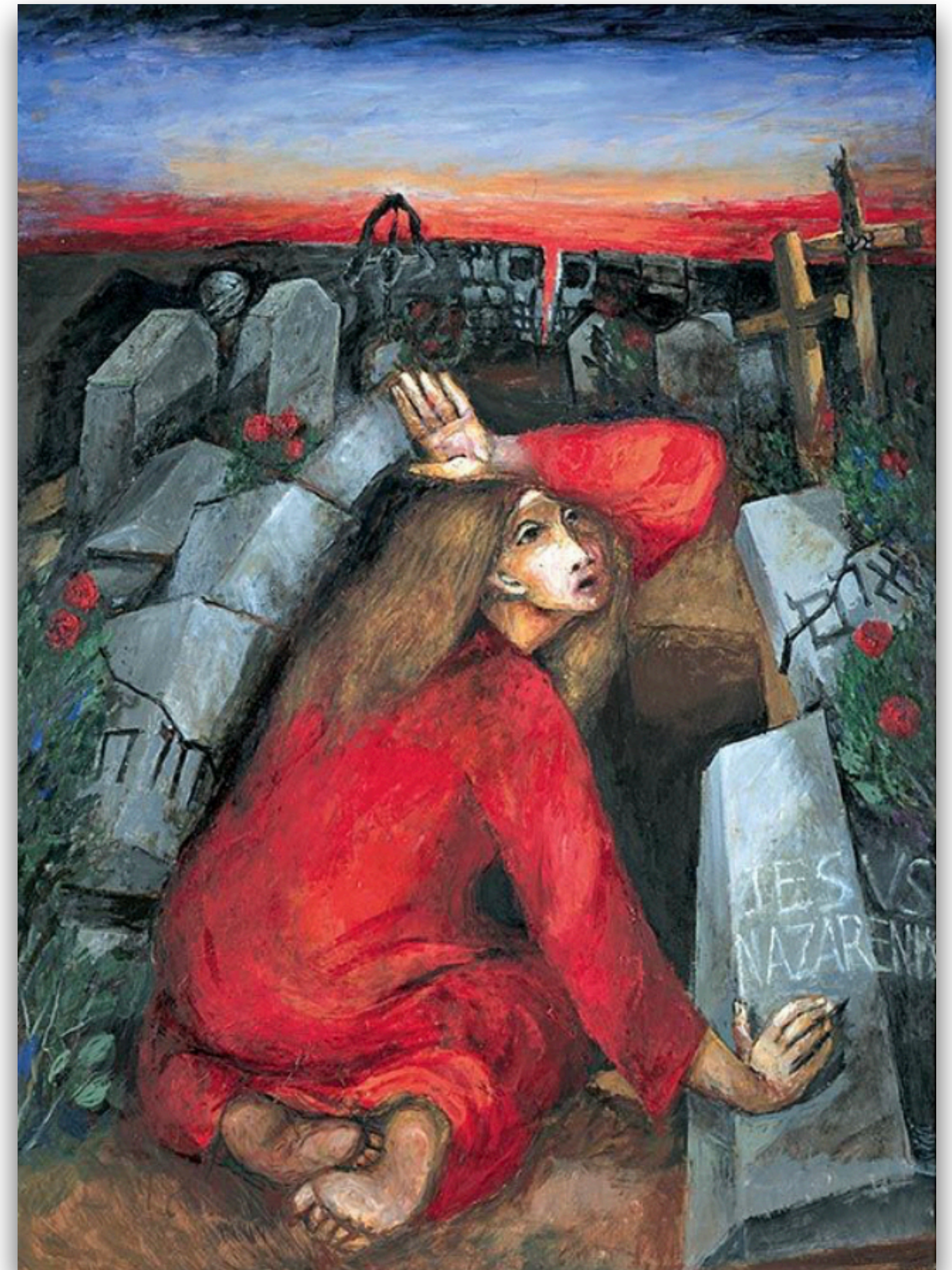


Mary at the tomb by Seiger Koder (Fair Use)



# REFLECT

- You might like to read the passage once more and pause at a word or phrase that strikes you.
- Meditate over this word or phrase with God until you come to a point of stillness.
- What do you sense God's invitation to you might be and how do you want to respond?
- You might like to pray in a similar way with the story of one of the other Marys in scripture.
- You might like to close your time of prayer by praying the Lord's Prayer.



Mary at the tomb by Seiger Koder (Fair Use)



# RESPOND

- At some point this week you might like to pray practically with what you have read about Mary.
- You could do this through collage, poetry, bible art journalling, or another creative approach.
- You might like to read the narratives of each of the Marys - and make a collage in response.
- You might like to think of those you know with the same name as yours and send them a card or message to bless them.



Mary at the tomb by Seiger Koder (Fair Use)



MARY

I met a Mary yesterday  
At Anglesey Abbey.  
She held the beauty and freshness of youth  
Reflecting one of the many Snowdrops that carpeted the ground.

So many types of Snowdrop - each a Galanthus  
- each with a qualifier.  
Like the many Marys in scripture  
With qualifiers of course:

Mother of  
Wife of  
Sister of  
Roots ...  
Even one described as a tower.

So many Marys.  
There are many tears to be wept.  
There many stars in the sea.

Marys who  
If they had been in the playground,  
Would have turned their heads in unison  
What me?

Marys, who like the Snowdrops  
Marys, who like the Abbey Mary,  
(Each with their own beauty  
Each with their own qualifier)  
Become Milk-flowers  
Blanketing the frozen earth.