
Mary of Magdala, ECC
Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany
Presider:

January 5, 2025
Endless Possibilities for Pilgrims
Rev. Jane Reina

Welcome and Announcements
Social Justice Reflection

Cindy Cloyd, Lector
Tom Moos, Chair, Social Justice Ministry

Opening Hymn: We Three Kings

Let us continue as one expression of God's people gathered. +In the name of the Creating God, Jesus our Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia.

All: Amen

Greeting

Good afternoon! Welcome everyone here and at home. It is so good to see you during these 12 days of Christmas.

For some of us there is an elephant in the room that I'd like to talk about. I've shortened other sections of the Mass so you can have a chance to talk too. The elephant is of course that Fr. Teri is not here. This is the first Sunday that she is not here and I suspect some of you are in grief over this. The blessing we gave her was a beautiful prayer of gratitude and well wishes. Would anyone like to express themselves?

This Christmas we were aware of an opportunity to ready ourselves for radical change through a Christ-experience. The Magi's journey to Jesus can be seen as our journey toward transformation.

When we are called to come to Christ, whatever path that is for each of us, we are called to a union. Jesus is our star of that union.

If we are open and willing to risk less ego and less control, and prayerfully turn inward to the place in our hearts where all is stillness, then we can see what kind of life we will live in Christ.

Our incomprehensible God is within you. **All: And also within you.**

Glory to God (*Mass of Joyful Heart*)



Opening Prayer

God, the Blessed Holy Three, is within you. **All: And also within you.**

Let us pray!

O Holy Light, You are the One Who Will Be, always. You thrive within your eternally entangled relationship with all creation, a living, dynamic and thriving relationship with all creation. Such is the sacredness of life. You call us to yourself, always calling us, because your Being is in us. Our example, our star is Jesus, the mystery of humanity and divinity co-inhereing.

We thank you for your sustained calling, opening opportunities to discover ourselves, face our own realities and move into our own small, still place to you.

All: May God grant us the grace to be open and willing.

Help us reflect the light of your Love that we feel in our hearts and hear in your Word.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - *Lector, Cindy Cloyd*

*The Shimmering Hours, by Jan Richardson, from **Circle of Grace**.*


There is so much
I want to say,
as if the saying
could prepare you
for this path,
as if there were anything
I could offer
that would make your way
less circuitous
more smooth.

Once you step out,
you will see for yourself
how nothing could have
made you ready for this road
that will take you
from what you know
to what you cannot perceive

except, perhaps,
in your dreaming
or as it gives a glimpse
in prayer.

But I can tell you
this journey is not
about miles.
It is not about how far
you can walk
or how fast.

It is about what you will do
with the moment, this star
that blazes in your sky
though no one else
might see.



So open your heart
to these shimmering hours
by which your path
is made.

Open your eyes
to the light that shines
on what you will need
to see.

Open our hands
to those who go with you,
those seen
and those known only
by their blessing,
their benediction
of the road that is
our own.

Words inspired by God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm *Lector, David Cloyd*
Psalm 72

Our response is: We bring our gifts.

Response: We bring our gifts.

May the mountains stream down goodness,
and the hills spring with the fruit of righteousness.

Response: We bring our gifts.

May Your justice reign as long as the sun endures,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
May Your Servant-Leader be like rain
falling on a freshly cut field, like showers watering the earth.
May righteousness flourish in those days,
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Response: We bring our gifts.

May the rulers of Tarshish and of the isles
bring tribute to *Your* Servant-Leader.
May the royalty of Sheba bear gifts.
May all pay homage to Your anointed,
Your humble leader. May all nations learn to serve.

Response: We bring our gifts.



Endow the rulers with discernment and wisdom, O God,
and their successors with Your justice.

May they defend the cause of Your poor,
offer a hand to Your oppressed,
and upturn uneven tables.

Let *us* offer a hand to those in need when they call,
to those who have no helper.

Response: We bring our gifts.

God's compassion is stirred by the vulnerable and oppressed.

We, too, hold sacred the lives of those uncounted.

God will redeem lives from extortion and violence.

Precious is their blood in the sight of God.

Precious may it be in our sight.

Response: We bring our gifts.

Second Reading - *Lector David Cloyd*
Galatians 3: 26-28

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Jesus the Christ. All of you who have been baptized into the Christ have clothed yourselves with a new way of being in the world. In Christ, there is no Judean or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Jesus the Christ.

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia – Mass of the Joyful Heart*

Gospel *Pastor Jane Reina*

May our Loving God be with you as you open to the Spirit. **All: And also with you.**

A Proclamation of the gospel attributed to Matthew. **All: Glory to You, O God.**



After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of Herod, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn leader of the Judeans? We observed the child’s star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” When Herod heard this, he was greatly disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him, “for this has been written by the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a leader
who will shepherd my people.” (CF Micah 5. 1 NABRE)*

Then Herod secretly called for the Magi and learned from them the exact time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem, having instructed them, “Go! Search diligently for the child. When you have found the newborn, bring me word so that I may also go and pay homage.”

After their audience with Herod, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child lay. Upon seeing the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they found the child with Mary, his mother. They bowed down and paid homage. Opening their treasure chests, they offered the child gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another route.

The Good News of Jesus our Christ. **All: Praise to you, Jesus our Christ.**
Let us be still and listen.

Homily

Creed

Rev. Jane: Let us profess a faith in the unitive Love of God.

**All: We believe in one God, one human family,
one planetary community, one body, one love, uniting all in beauty, for God’s
infinite love is infinite, fecund and beautiful.**



We believe we are entangled with all earth life and all living creatures, we believe this future is the relational unity of all living things in God.

We believe this earth has a future entangled with God.

We believe the heart of God is love. Amen.

A profession of faith from Christogenesis

Prayers of the People

Rev. Jane:

As pilgrim magi ourselves, we lift up our own needs and the needs of all spiritual communities, trusting in the Holy One.

Lector David Cloyd

Our response to the prayers is: Through us, shine your Light.

All: Through us, shine your light.

For all people to be open to the Love Christ consciousness calls forth in their everyday, moment to moment, lives and decisions, that all people may simply live, we pray, **Response: Through us, shine your light.**

For places throughout the world where severe weather has destroyed normal living, that they may find the resources needed to rebuild, we pray **Response: Through us, shine your light.**

For all who are sick, physically, mentally, or emotionally, and those recovering from medical procedures, that they may find the best resources and return to wholeness of health, we pray, **Response: Through us, shine your light.**

Prayers from the sanctuary:we pray, **Response: Through us, shine your light.**

Any prayers from those our zoom attendees?we pray, **Response: Through us, shine your light.**

For all the people on our prayer list and for all the prayers you hold in your heart, we pray, **Response: Through us, shine your light.**

Rev. Jane Reina

You, O Light of the World, hear these our prayers, and the prayers buried within us. In your compassion, grant us the gift of understanding.



Sign of Peace

Jesus, you said to your disciples: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you.” May the Peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Please turn toward the camera and offer a sign of Peace to our family on Zoom, then extend toward each other.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink here and in our homes, we are reminded that our personal offerings of time, talent, and treasure sustain the mission of God’s church. Please continue to give as you are called and able.

You may be seated. Let us sing together:

Offertory Song: *What Child Is This*

Preparation of the Gifts (*during Offertory song*)

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which our sacred earth has given and our open human hands have made. It will become for us our life. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

By the mystery of this water and wine, we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself in humanity. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

Oh God, wash away my fear and ambivalence...(washing of hands)

Pray, my beloved siblings, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God.

All: May God accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of God’s name, for our good, and the good of all God’s creation.

Jesus, you invite us to share this meal with you, a meal that is you. As you invite us, you accept our superficial love, our little love, our deep love, our striving and longing for love. By the grace at this table and all the world’s Eucharistic tables, may we bring you as Light to our world.



Grant us, O Christ, what these gifts of bread and wine signify, the potential to inhabit your heart and be transformed for the good of all. **All: Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Christ is within you.

All: And also within you.

Let us open our hearts to God. **All: We open our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, compassionate and creating God – to you we offer thanks and praise everywhere and always. You, O God, are our primal and deepest desire and so you call us to yourself. You call us through our Baptism to be a priestly people, a people living the intrinsic humility of Jesus through his ministry, suffering and death. You are our fulfillment.

Therefore, we gladly join our voices praising you with the entire cosmos, the whole of creation:

HOLY (*Mass of the Joyful Heart*)

Blessed are you, Jesus our Christ. You are the Holy One enfleshed, embodied in Creation, sought after by the world, near and far. We pray, O Holy Flame, that your fire clear our vision to see that the whole of humanity is the Body of Christ. Christ, the risen and ascended Jesus, was human in skin, bones, and blood who bled until no blood was left, who drank the cup of humility until all vulnerability was exposed. He suffered on the cross and forgave his executioners. He gives us the gift of eternal love.

Send now your Holy Spirit to sanctify this bread and wine, that they may flow through us as the sacred Body and Blood of Jesus our Christ.

On the night before he was betrayed and among friends, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks and praise, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying:

All: Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, which will be given up for you.



When the supper was ended, he took the cup of wine.
Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said:

**All: Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for all, so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this, in memory of me.**

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Memorial Acclamation *Mass of the Joyful Heart*

All:

God of Love, through Jesus our Christ, you have entrusted us, your pilgrim people,
with this Passover meal, this pledge of Love.
Together then with your servants of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion and people
of every faith and no faith, we remember that your life was poured out as a libation.
Help us to live your love as our salvation not our possession.

Remember, all those who have died, ...
Welcome them into your all-embracing love as you gather all people into your heart.
Setting our wisdom, our wills, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing
nothing in our hands, we yearn to unite with the Love Christ offers us and our world
as together now we say:

**All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours,
Self-emptying/Life Giving God forever and ever.**

Great Amen (*sung Mass of the Joyful Heart*)

The Prayer of Jesus

Praying with our zoom family, let us turn to the camera and pray the words Jesus
gave us:

**All: Abba/Amma, God, in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**



Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The Shared Table

Knowing that we are the very breath of God, we sing:

Lamb of God *Mass of the Joyful Heart*

This is the living God. This is the One who transforms us and our world. Blessed are we who are called to this table.

All: Jesus, I am ready to receive you, and by your invitation I am here.

Invitation to Communion

As we share in this eternal gift of love, let us proclaim together:

All: In this we are a Eucharistic people, the Body of Christ incarnate, the blood of Christ poured out for the life of the world.

All of us are invited to the sacramental meal. You belong at this table. Come and share in the life of Christ!

Communion Song: *We Adore*

Prayer after Communion O God of never-ending possibility for renewed life, Eucharist with its earthly elements of body and blood, inherent in all creation, brings us together in holiness. Christ of all Holiness, help us respond to your calling and the opportunity to be transformed. **All: Amen.**

Prayer for Dori Healy:

All: Heavenly Father, Master of the Universe, we ask your blessing upon Dori as she discerns her call to be ordained as Deacon. May her deep faith and servant heart be open to clarify her call to ministry. May this process deepen the harmony of her heart and soul into right action. Mary, Mother of God, continue to be a beacon of light and hope for Dori. We, members of Mary of Magdala, promise to hold Dori in prayer and in our hearts as she makes this journey—a



journey ever ancient and ever new. Dori be blessed with the flow of grace from our hands and hearts to you—knowing wisdom, wonder, and insight flow to strengthen you on your journey. May it be so. Amen.

Final Blessing

May the Spirit of Christ, alive in all matter and mind, lift us up to a greater awareness of what lies within our pilgrim journey.

In the name of Abba/Amma God, Jesus our Christ and the Holy Spirit Sophia.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Spread the word, the Incarnation is every minute. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song *Love Has Come*