Mary of Magdala, ECC February 22, 2026

1st Sunday of Lent —All Together Everywhere

What do we expect from Lent?

Can we have a singular focus? If so, what might that be?

Presider and Homilist: *Reverend Jane Reina*

Welcome and Announcements *Lector: Vicki Johnson*

Social Justice Reflection *Tom Moos*

Entrance Song Gracious God. (V1; V2; R; V3; R)

Greeting *Rev. Jane Reina*

Welcome to the 1st Sunday of Lent. We may feel like, ugh, aren't we already living Lent every day?

Or we might feel like, ya! Lent. Now, I can focus on walking with Jesus or I can focus on Jesus walking with me; I can take time to strengthen my interior Light; I can take the time to integrate the trials of the time, allowing myself to accept the vulnerability of ambiguity.

Please feel free to sit or stand as together, here and at home, as we take a deep breath and relax. Notice how you are feeling today, and enter into the presence of our nonviolent God who loves us infinitely and unconditionally. Welcoming peace into our hearts we pray:

+ In the name of the All-Compassionate Creative Mystery we name God, Jesus—our Christ, and the Holy Spirit—Sophia. **All: Amen**

Penitential Rite

In humble gratitude for God's never-ending love we pray:

All: Together, we turn back to you, O Christ, knowing you welcome us even in the midst of our turning, just by our yearning to return. Bless us with both *knowledge* and *experience* of you as we turn with deep longing and open hearts for the oneness you offer. We come in fragility and vulnerability recognizing the violence in our own hearts.

We turn back to you, Jesus our Christ, when we remember that you said "We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

All: We thank you, Jesus our Christ, for feeding our spiritual hunger with Eucharist.



We turn back to you, O God, when we remember that we are among the Chosen Ones to be your Light and Love in the world.

All: We thank you, O God, for your extravagant love.

We turn back to you, Holy Spirit, when we realize that among all the competing gods in our society, your wisdom calls us to assert that we are to "Worship God and serve God alone."

All: We thank you, Holy Spirit, for your Wisdom Way.

Jesus of Nazareth, help us to use this time of Lent to go more deeply into our selves when we reach out to and call our God both inward and outward.

Jesus of Nazareth, help us to increase our sense of community with our world, giving more of ourselves and our resources.

Jesus of Nazareth, help us to wrestle with our own demons as we try to integrate your challenge to build greater community and to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, truly making us one with you. **All: Amen**

Opening Prayer

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

Let us pray:

God of Peace, God of Love, you continually create wonderous beauty, rich in diversity and complexity. Open our hearts, fill us with your light. Send your Spirit of the nonviolent Jesus more deeply into our wounded selves, so hatred may dissolve through understanding, fear and violence may lessen as we stand with bare feet on our Earth's ground so unity may be planted. May the Spirit of Christ breathe peace into our hearts. **All: Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated as we listen to the inspired Word of God speaking to us.

First Reading *Lector Vicki Johnson*

A Reading from *Become Grace and Compassion,* by Rabbi Shoni Labowitz, from **Miraculous Living.**

You are born with grace. There is nothing for you to do to deserve grace; it is an ordained state of generosity, goodness, and purity that already resides in your consciousness. When you are gracious to another, grace

emanates through you and serves humanity and earth. When you begin awakening to all the positive attributes that were embedded in your system before you came into physical form, you realize how blessed and fortunate you are. This fortune, which is coded on your very being, lies dormant until activated…

In becoming grace, you start from a place of emptiness. When you empty of expectations, you open to the wonders that happen in moments and nanoseconds of revelation. With God's grace active in you, nothing can go wrong…Graciousness is displayed in generosity and in hospitality. When you greet another and give generously, you are entertaining God…To relate to another human in such a manner that that person's grace and your grace mirror each other helps to heal and repair worlds.

Words Inspired by God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm O Dios, Creo En Mi (R; R All; R; V1 C; R All)

Second Reading *Lector Deb Klein*

A Reading from Paul's 1st Letter to the Thessalonians 3:4-9, 12

When we were with you, we warned you that we were certain to suffer persecution; and that is, indeed, how it has turned out, as

you have discovered. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that somehow the tempter had tempted you, and that all our work with you had been in vain.
However, Timothy has returned from you and has given us the good news of your abiding faith and your love. He tells us that you always remember us with delight and long to see us—just as we long to see you. For this reason, dear ones, your faith has been a great encouragement to us in the middle of our distress and persecution. It is the breath of life to us, knowing that you hold firm in God. How can we thank God enough for you, for all the joy we feel because of you!
May God make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God's people.
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation MOD. V2

Gospel

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

A proclamation of the Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you O God.

After Jesus' baptism, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be

tempted by the Destroyer. Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights. Afterwards, he was hungry. The Tempter came and said to Jesus, “If you are the Chosen One of God, God’s Own, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

But Jesus answered, “It is written,
‘We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
Then the Destroyer took Jesus to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the Temple, saying, “If you are God’s Chosen One, throw yourself down for it is written,
‘God will command the angels concerning you’,
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus responded, “Again it is written:
‘Do not put your God to the test.’”
Once more, the Destroyer took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the realms of the world and their splendor, saying, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

Jesus said, “Away with you, Satan, Accuser! for it is written:

‘Worship God, and serve God alone.’”

Then the Destroyer left Jesus; and behold,

angels came and began to care for him.

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: Praise to you Jesus our Christ.

Homily **Rev. Jane Reina**

Creed

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: May we we join with Jesus during this Lent, journeying through trial being transformed into the Love and Peace that heals what is ready to be healed. So we pray…

Lector Deb Klein

Our response is: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

For people around the world who weep as loved ones fall victim to oppression and hate, that both the oppressed and the oppressor may heal and be restored to treating all neighbors as kin and loved, we pray,

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

For much needed moisture for Mother Earth, that plants, trees, grasses and all life may continue to thrive, we pray,

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

For our 301 Faith Partners as we work to initiate the Safe Lots Program next fall, that we may build trust with our neighbors so the program will move forward, we pray, **Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.**

The prayers from the sanctuary are: we pray,

Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.

Are there prayers from our members on zoom?

Response: Beloved God receive our prayers.

And for all the people on our prayer list and the prayers we hold sacred in our hearts, we pray, **Response: Beloved God, receive our prayers.**

Rev. Jane O Holy Mystery, hear our prayers joined with all the prayers world-wide for peace. Help us awaken to our own gifts to love and unite through the nonviolence and peace of Jesus. **All: Amen**

The Peace

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you my peace, my peace I give you." May the Peace of Christ be in all of you.

All: And also within you.

Please turn toward the camera to offer a sign of peace to our siblings online, and then toward each other.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

As we prepare our tables with what food we have, we are reminded that our offerings of time, talent, and treasure sustain the mission of God's church. Please continue to give as you are called and able. (Suitcase of Lent responses will be brought up, placed before altar and opened.)

Let us sing together. . .

Offertory Song. Christ In Me Arise (R; V1; R; V2; R; B; R)

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 earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Foundation of our life. {***All: Blessed be God forever.***}

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

O God, wash away my iniquity and ambivalence, cleanse my heart and soul.

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

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

Eucharistic Prayer

Christ is within you. **All: And also within you.**

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

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

Blessed are you, compassionate and faithful God—to you we offer thanks and praise everywhere and always. All that exists has its origin in you. You, O God, are creation's desired fulfillment. We thank you for our planetary home and our living cosmos beyond our understanding, all holy and sacred.

We thank you for emptying Yourself into time through Jesus.

For the life of Jesus—actively courageous, authentic, compassionate, and nonviolent —calls us to enter into it and transform our lives by it. The Spirit of Jesus calls us to a deeper reality that can overwhelm us with the grief of violence and overwhelm us with the beauty of creation.

Therefore, we gladly join our voices praising you with the entire cosmos,

the whole of creation:

Holy *MOD*

Flowing from the Exquisite Love visible and invisible throughout the entire cosmos, send your Holy Spirit to heal us and our planet. Please join us in raising your hands over the gifts:

Sanctify these gifts of the earth, bread and wine ++, that they may become the Body and Blood of Jesus our Christ.

Together, we, the Body of Christ, remember what Jesus did at table and in life. Who, on the night before he was betrayed, and among friends, He took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

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

When supper was ended, he took the cup; again he gave you thanks and, handing the cup to his disciples, 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 all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Memorial Acclamation Save Us Savior *MOD*

God of Love and Peace, through Jesus our Christ you have entrusted us 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 Love is our salvation not our possession. May this love convert us from the pattern of this passing world, and conform us to the pattern of Christ.

Remember, O Holy Mystery, all those who have died. Welcome them into your all-embracing Love where you gather all people into yourself.

Setting our wisdom, our own wills, our words aside, emptying our hearts and bringing nothing in our hands, we yearn to unite with the Love Christ offers 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 are yours, self-emptying/life-giving God, forever and ever.

Amen MOD

The Prayer of Jesus

Please turn to those of us at home. Joining together we pray the words that 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 – Eucharistic Ministers divide the bread, place the wine on the stands.

Instrumental music

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

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

Invitation To Communion

As we share in this living sacrament of power and vulnerability, of community and individuality, of pain and joy, 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.

This sacred meal is offered for all of us to share, without exception. Coming to this table, Christ calls us to a deeper kinship than we can

imagine. The door to the heart of God is open, enter, come forward, join in the feast of sacrifice and love.

Communion Song Purify My Heart (R; V1; R; V2; R)

Prayer after Communion -- If you are able, please stand

Let us pray. . .Loving and generous God, we thank you for gathering us as the Body of Christ. May we offer ourselves in this preparatory season with you in our hearts as we are in your heart. Food for the journey. We ask this through Jesus our Christ. **All: Amen**

Blessing and Dismissal

The Peace of God is within you. **All: And also within you.**

May God bless to grow in courage, honesty, vulnerability, perseverance and wisdom.

In the name of the Sacred Un-nameable, the Eternal Christ, and the Wisdom Spirit, Sophia. **All: Amen**

Go, steadfast on our journey with Jesus and Jesus' journey with you,

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Song 40 Days (V1; R; V2; R; **)**