

Mary of Magdala, ECC Sunday Service – Sept 13, 2020

24rd Sunday in the Season of Creation

Black Lives Matter

Announcements – *Lector Lynne Barnes*

Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop –

Father Michael

Let us all pray our Regional Prayer for calling a Bishop

**ALL: Holy One,
Enlivening Spirit,
In the wilderness of new,
root the Body of Christ**

**fully into our "Yes,"
blooming in Your Holy Season.
Amen**

Opening Song *(please join in while muted)*

Come Lord Jesus – Prayer of St. Francis

Refrain

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come and fill my heart with your life.

Hold me close, Lord, hold me tight,
and come, Lord Jesus, come.

1. Where there's despair in life, Lord,
let me be your voice of hope.

Where there's injury, Lord,

let me be your voice of peace.

2. Where there is sadness
let me be your comfort and your joy.

When there's fear in our hearts
let me be a sign of faith.

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Greeting – *Father Michael*

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **ALL: Amen.** The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

Penitential Rite – *Father Michael*

We're told that one of the Spirit's gifts is Piety. It's not some personal spiritual practice or devotion, but an awareness that reverence toward God's goodness and reverence toward God's goodness reflected in Creation are one and the same devotion.

For the times our spirituality is divorced from our orientation to others. Lord, have mercy... **All: Lord, have mercy**

For the times our self-importance has led to the diminishment of another or a part of God's Creation. Christ, have mercy... **All: Christ have mercy**



For the times we give or accept forgiveness without really understanding the reasons behind our transgressions, making it all the more likely that we sin again. Lord, have mercy... **All: Lord, have mercy**

May God Ever-faithful have mercy on us, ✠ forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. **All: Amen.**

Gloria -

Father Michael

Renewed by grace, we are bold to proclaim:

GLORY TO GOD - *(Sung with Bill on mute)*

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Amen, amen.

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Opening Prayer – *Father Michael*

God of loving-kindness and compassion, you created us for relationship. May your glory be revealed and celebrated in all of our encounters.

This we ask you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who in the unity of the Holy Spirit lives and works with you, now and always.

All: Amen

Liturgy of the Word – *Lector Pedro Engels*

1st Reading: Sirach 42. 15-18, 22-25

I will now call to mind the works of the Beloved, and will declare what I have seen.
By the word of the Beloved all works are made;
and all creatures do the Beloved's will.

The sun looks down on everything with its light, and the work of the Beloved is full of glory.

The Beloved has empowered even the holy ones to recount all the marvelous works, which God, the Beloved has established



so that the universe may stand firm in his glory.

How desirable are all God's works, and how sparkling they are to see!

All these things live and remain forever; each creature is preserved to meet a particular need.

The Beloved has made nothing incomplete, Each supplements the virtues of the other. Who could ever tire of seeing God's glory?

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

Responsorial Psalm 103 – *Lector Pedro Engels*

The response is sung:

Sung Response: Our Lord is kind and merciful. Our Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Beloved, O my soul, and all that is within me; I bless your Holy Name!

Bless the Beloved, O my soul, and remember

Sung Response: Our Lord is kind and merciful. Our Lord is kind and merciful.

You forgive our stubbornness, You heal our disease, You save us from the snares of fear, You crown us with steadfast Love and Mercy, You satisfy our every need and renew our spirit like the eagle's.

Sung Response: Our Lord is kind and merciful. Our Lord is kind and merciful.

You are merciful and gracious, quelling our anger with your patient Love.

You love us more than we can ask or imagine; in truth, we belong to You. For You understand us, requiting us not according to our ignorance and error.

Sung Response: Our Lord is kind and merciful. Our Lord is kind and merciful.

As far as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your loving response toward those who are humble; So far does your enduring strength uphold those who face the darkness within.

R Sung Response: Our Lord is kind and merciful. Our Lord is kind and merciful.

2nd Reading: From the letter of Paul to the Romans 14: 7-9 – *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

Sisters and Brothers,
We do not live for ourselves,
nor do we die for ourselves.
While we live, we live for Christ Jesus,
and when we die, we die for Christ Jesus.
Both in life and death we belong to Christ.

That is why Christ died and came to life again—
in order to reign supreme over both the living
and the dead.
The Word of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God



'Alleluia' - Mass of Mary Magdalene

Sung by Bill Smith (please join in while muted)

Refrain

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;
You have the words of everlasting life.

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Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35 — Deacon Rosean

The Lord is with you.
A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

ALL: And also with you.
ALL: Glory to you, O Christ.

Peter came up and asked Jesus,
“When a sister of brother wrongs me,
how many times must I forgive? Seven times?”

“No,” Jesus replied, “not seven times;
I tell you seventy times seven. And here’s why:
“The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who
decided to settle accounts with the royal
officials. When the audit was begun, one was
brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars.
As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler
ordered this official to be sold, along with family
and property, in payment of the debt.

At this the official bowed down in homage and
said, ‘I beg you, your highness, be patient with
me and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with
pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off his
debt.

“Then that same official went out and met a
colleague who owed the official twenty dollars.
The official seized and throttled this debtor
with the demand, ‘Pay back what you owe!’

“The debtor dropped to the ground and began
to plead, ‘Just give me time and I will pay you
back in full.’ But the official would hear none of
it, and instead had the colleague put in
debtor’s prison until the money was paid.

“When the other officials saw what had
happened, they were deeply grieved, and went
to the ruler, reporting the entire incident.
The ruler sent for the first official and said,
‘You worthless wretch! I canceled your entire
debt when you pleaded with me.

Should you not have dealt mercifully with your
colleague, as I dealt with you?’ Then in anger, the
ruler handed the official over to be tortured until
the debt had been paid in full.

“My Amma/Abba in heaven will treat you exactly
the same way unless you truly forgive your
sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

The Good News of Salvation of Jesus, our Christ!
ALL: Glory and Praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!



Homily – *Father Michael - “Our True Place”*

Creed/Affirmation of Faith – *Father Micheal*

God of loving-kindness and compassion, you created us for relationship. May your glory be revealed and celebrated in all of our encounters. We gather in this assembly as a community of faith. A community made up of all sorts of creatures.

ALL: We believe in God the creator, a real God, always present with us, a God who fashioned and made us, breathed life into us, and gave us stewardship over all creation. A responsibility to take care of waterways and deserts, flowers and mountains, animal and fellow human beings. To reduce our negative impact on the environment so that all creatures coming after us may be able to enjoy the beauty and majesty of this universe, as we have had the chance.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, son of God, born in Bethlehem, surrounded by brays and neighs, moos and baas of this world. A man who related to animals, spoke of sparrows and foxes, rode a donkey, pulled a coin from the mouth of a fish, and welcomed us as sheep of his own flock. The proclaimed

Lamb of God, who died and rose, to take away the sin of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the wind and whisper of God, that moves in and through creation, pushing us, and guiding us to act with justice and peace, loving creation as ourselves. A dove that comes to comfort us, or brings a vision from God that all animals have been made clean. A promise that one day the lion and the lamb will lay down together, as this divisive world ends and unity is restored. The hope of God that each part of creation is loved, valued, and honored.

Amen

Written by Pastor Rick Reitin

Prayers of the People –

Father Michael

Because of our interconnectedness, our intercessions are an integral part of our being church together. As a community united in love, we pray:

Lector Cindy Cloyd

The response for the “Prayers of the People” is: Embrace your people and creation with your Love.

All: Embrace your people and creation with your Love.

Creator God, Our human lives and all creation are ever intertwined, guide us as we learn to do better in caring for all our brothers and sisters and the Universe,

For all churches, faith traditions, and cultures to continue to speak out about racial bias,

injustice, and unequal compassionate treatment so that systemic racism and white privilege may be changed and all people are truly equal in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, we pray, **Embrace your people and creation with your Love.**



For all nations and peoples to take responsibility for caring for all of creation that our ways of living will be wise, sustainable, just, and reverent, we pray, **Embrace your people and creation with your Love.**

For the gift of forgiveness for our own part in the mistakes against creation that we may move forward with better knowledge and tools for the care of all creation, we pray,

Embrace your people and creation with your Love.

For all people who are sick, recovering from medical procedures, ongoing mental disorders and their caregivers, that they may be touched by your healing grace and Love and return to wholeness, we pray, **Embrace your people and creation with your Love**

I now invite you to share your prayers so that we may pray in community with you. If you feel comfortable, you could press the space bar and say your prayer, OR you could type the prayer into the chat box.
(Cindy to read each prayer on “chat”)we pray **Response: Embrace your people and creation with your Love action..**

And for all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray. **Response: Embrace your people and creation with your Love**

Father Michael

God of steadfast Love and Mercy, You satisfy our every need and renew our spirits through a deeper awareness of our interrelatedness. Hear the prayers raised in every corner of your Creation, as we await your loving response through Christ Jesus, alive and active in our midst. **ALL: AMEN**

Sign of Peace - *Father Michael*

Celebrating the power of mercy and love, may the Peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: And also with you

Deacon Rosean:

Let us all go to “gallery view” and please unmute yourself by holding down your space bar so all can hear you offering a sign of Christ’s peace.

Preparation of our Tables

The Lord be with you
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to our God.

All: And, also with you.
All: We lift them up to God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink from our cupboards, we are reminded that our offerings of time, talent and treasure

sustain the mission of God’s Church.
Continue to give as you are called and able.

All: Amen



Offertory

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
We set before you this humble food
which earth has given and human hands have made.
In the sharing may we be trained to live together well.

ALL: Blessed be God forever

Prayer over the Gifts

Father/Mother God, we come together to share in your blessings.
May they flow through us to the whole of your Creation.
This we ask through Christ who unites us and all that is in you.

Preface, Invited into Fullness

The Lord is with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: And also with you.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Across the miles that separate us we praise
you, Father/Mother God, having been graced
with every spiritual blessing.

For you chose us in Christ before the creation
of the world to be holy and blameless in your
sight. And this was your purpose: that when
the time is ripe you would gather us all
together from wherever we are—in heaven or
on earth—to be with you in Christ forever.

Indeed, now is that time, now is the day!
The promise of this sweet communion became

our reality when we heard the message of
truth, the gospel of our salvation.
When we believed, we were marked in him
with a seal, his Advocate, the Spirit of
wisdom and truth, so that we might come to
know you better, know ourselves better,
opening our eyes and hearts to embrace the
hope to which we have been called.

In awe of so great a mystery, we join the
angels and saints in their unending song of
praise:

(together singing on mute)

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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We commit ourselves to the community of faith in which this song resonates, calling upon You, most merciful God, to send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon the offerings we have set before You in our homes.

Bless ✠ these gifts that we may experience our life and unity in Christ. Nurtured by hope and love and faith may our sharing be a sign that You are truly present and that we are truly united in You.

Though now gathered in separate locations we remember what your Son did at table and in life, foreshadowing the self-gift that was his death.

Jesus took bread, gave You thanks and praise, broke the bread, and gave it to the 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 the 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.

Loving God, we celebrate the memory of Christ, your Son, all that he did and continues to do to bring your blessings to the whole of your Creation.

Lord, while we ask you to remember all our sisters and brothers of many faiths and spiritual paths, who each bring their own insights and blessings to our world, remember, too, your Church, united across the miles.

Make us grow in love, together with all who hold and spread the hope handed down to us from the Apostles.

Continue to empower us as laypersons, deacons and priests for the special ministry given to the Body of Christ, praying especially for its local incarnation, in union with our bishops, Francis and Denise.

May your grace pierce the veils that separate us, may the inspiration of your Spirit make us one, and may the brilliant light of Christ lead us to discover your love in every human heart.

Remember, Lord, those who have died.

Welcome them into your glorious presence with Mary, your Mother, our patron Mary of Magdala, your apostles and martyrs, and all the saints as they enjoy the fullness of the communion that is our destiny.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father/Mother, forever and ever. **All: Amen.**

by Fr. Michael J. Nicosia © 2020, based on the First Letter of Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 1.

The Lord's Prayer *(all together on mute)*

Father Michael

Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.



ALL: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who

trespass against us, and let us not enter into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kin-dom and the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

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The Shared Table – *Father Michael*

As we partake of the sustenance laid before us, let us affirm 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.

Communion Song – *(please join in while muted)*

Here I am

Refrain
Here I am, standing right beside you.
Here I am; do not be afraid.
Here I am, waiting like a lover.
I am here; here I am.

1. Do not fear when the tempter calls you.
Do not fear even though you fall.
Do not fear, I have conquered evil.
Do not fear, never be afraid.

2. I am here in the face of ev'ry child.

I am here in ev'ry warm embrace.
I am here with tenderness and mercy.
Here I am; I am here.

3. I am here in the midst of ev'ry trial.
I am here in the face of despair.
I am here when pardoning your brother.
Here I am, I am here.

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Prayer After the Meal – *Father Michael*

Let us pray

God, source of all life, in the radical hospitality of this community we have come to know the forgiveness and grace that you have been sharing with the whole of Creation since its beginning. In turn, we give what we have received as components

of our relationship with you and with one another.

Strengthen the ties that bind us together as the Body of your Son, our brother, who is Christ the Lord.

ALL: Amen



Blessing – *Father Micahel*

The Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

May almighty God bless you: the Source of All-Being, the Eternal Word ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Dismissal – *Deacon Rosean*

Our celebration is ended, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another

ALL: Thanks be to God

Closing Song – *join in singing on mute*

Can We Love

Refrain

Can we love?

Can we lay down our lives?

Can we wear his crown of thorns?

Can we drink the cup that He drinks?

We must lay down our lives!

1. It's more than raising our hands,
it's more than singing this song.
It's saying "yes" to the Giver of life,
it's righting the ways that are wrong!
(to Refrain)

2. It's more than shouting God's name,
it's more than singing His praise.
It's bringing forgiveness to injury's wound,

and hope to those imprisoned by shame.

(to Interlude and Verse 3)

3. Loving the Lord our God
with all our heart, mind and soul,
loving our neighbor as ourselves,
the kingdom of love we will know!
(to Verse 4)

4. With feet secure on the ground
and hearts humbled by love
we stand before God's anointed one
and ask the question, and ask the question:
(to Refrain)

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Zoom will remain open for community chat.