



Mary of Magdala, ECC Sunday Service – Nov 29, 2020

Celebrating the First Sunday of Advent

*Preparations include participants preparing their home tables with a lit candle,
and the food and drink to be remotely shared.*

Announcements – Lector Jim Berry

Black Lives Matter – Tom Moos Co-Chair Social Justice Ministry

Entrance Song

Find Us Ready

Refrain

Find us ready, Lord, not standing still.
Find us working and loving and doing your will.
Find us ready, Lord, faithful in love,
building the kingdom that's here and above,
building the kingdom of mercy and love.

1. We must wait for the Lord
for we know not the time.
So here and today
we gather and pray,
discovering love in our midst.

2. We must make straight the path,
God's love revealed.
With sin cast aside,
God's mercy alive,
fear not for here is your God.

3. Lifting up those bowed down,
we prepare for our God.
Rejoice in the Lord,
for hope has been born
in hearts where our God finds a home.

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Greeting

Pastor Jane

In the name of Amma/Abba, Christ Jesus the
Everlasting Word Incarnate, and of the Holy Spirit,
Sophia. **ALL: AMEN**

May God, the blessed Holy Three, be with you
ALL: And also with you

Penitential Rite – *Pastor Jane*

May the Cosmic Christ who transforms through
the Hope of Eternal Love, and Decided Faith be
with you.

ALL: AMEN

Jesus, our most patient Brother, help us to
expectantly trust your mercy in the Cosmos.
God of patience, have mercy.

ALL: God have mercy.

Christ, may we be awakened as the source of
Your power in our world.
Christ have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, heal our personal, communal and cultural
wounds of separation and bring all creation
together in your Peace.

God have mercy.

ALL: God have mercy.

May Christ Jesus, revealed as the timeless answer,
✠ bring us to wholeness and peace this day.

All: Amen



Gloria –

Deacon Rosean:

Renewed by the mystery of an incarnated divinity we proclaim together:

please join in on mute to sing along with Bill Smith

Refrain
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
(Amen.)

1. 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.

2. 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 on us.

3. 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

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Opening Prayer

Deacon Rosean

Let us pray to God, who relentlessly offers us Love

Pastor Jane

O compassionate and caring Creator, Your Spirit
embraces us with sight and sound and aroma
throughout your Creation, our home.

Spirit speaks to us of hope through your Word
and Spirit. Spirit sends us out, as disciples, to
continue to herald your Love.

In this, we are humbled by our littleness on a little
planet in a seemingly limitless expanse of galaxies
and universes.

Help us to live as Christ leads us, one with all in
You in Love. We ask this through Christ our Jesus.

ALL: Amen

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading from the second Letter of Peter—3:8-15—Lector Jim Berry

Beloved, you must not ignore this one thing: that
with God, one day is like a thousand years, and a
thousand years are like one day. God is not slow in
carrying out promises, as some think of slowness.

Rather God is patient, wanting no one to be lost,
and all to be found. But the day of God will come
like a thief. Then the cosmos will pass away with
an enormous roar. The elements will catch fire
and melt away. The earth, and all that is in it, will
dissolve in flames.

Consider, then, what sort of people we ought to
be. We must lead lives of holiness and dedication,
as we anticipate and hasten the coming of the day
of God. That day the cosmos will go up in flames
and the elements melt in the heat.

Relying on God's promise, we wait for a new
cosmos and a new earth where justice will be at
home. So, beloved, while we are waiting, strive to
live rightly and be at peace that God may find us



above reproach. And consider God’s patience an opportunity to become healed and whole.

The Word of an early church leader.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalm - *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Holy Is His Name

Refrain

Holy, holy, holy is God's name.

Holy, holy, holy is God's name.

Holy, holy, holy is God's name.

Holy, holy, holy is God's name

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‘Alleluia’ - Mass of the Desert *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Refrain

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia

1. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

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Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37

Deacon Rosean

May the Word be with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

ALL: And also with you.

ALL: Glory to you, O God

Jesus said to the disciples,
“Sisters and brothers, In those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and glory, then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it—neither the angels of heaven, not the Only Begotten—no one but Amma/Abba God. Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like people traveling abroad. They leave their home and put the workers in charge, each with a certain task, and those who watch at the front gate are ordered to stay on the alert.

“Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Promised One is near, right at the door. The truth is, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

So stay alert! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows or at early dawn. Do not let the owner come suddenly and catch you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: stay alert!”

The Good News of Salvation

ALL: Glory and Praise to the Word, Incarnate



Homily – *Pastor Jane*

Magnificat of Waiting for the Fullness of Time – *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

by Ann Johnson, *Miryam of Nazareth*.

My soul reflects quietly on your fullness,
 and my spirit grows stronger in the hope of
 your promise,
 God my redeemer, because you have filled me
 with the
 knowing that you are alive within me.
 Yes, day by day through the course of time
 my awareness of the call to blessed fulfillment
 increases
 for you have done great things in me.
 Holy is this time,
 and patience is your gift
 to all who nurture the seed of your love.
 You have changed my life;
 I was so confident in my unknowing.

My longing to be a healing and reconciling person
 to your people
 is affirmed within the daily comings and
 goings of my life;
 my illusions of my own wholeness are
 mercifully revealed.
 You are here now in this seeming emptiness of
 waiting,
 remembering your intent,
 according to the promise made in the
 beginning of time . . . remembering your
 intent to reach through the work of my life
 that your fullness may be know now, in our time.

Words inspired by God.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Prayers of the People –

Pastor Jane

Joining as one we watch and wait with hope flowing

Lector Cindy Cloyd

The response is: Beloved, comfort and lead your people. **All: Beloved, comfort and lead your people.**

Creator God, As we wait, watch and prepare for
 the celebration of Emmanuel’s birth, guide our
 Advent journey so that we may fully embrace your
 love and be the Light and Hope in our world,... we

pray.... **All: Beloved, comfort and lead your
 people.**

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 **All: Beloved, comfort and lead your people.**

And for all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray: **All: Beloved, comfort and lead your people.**

Pastor Jane

God, you show us yourself through Christ Jesus who permeates our very selves and our material world. Hear our prayers to continue to wait, watch, and work toward the hope of your Showing. We ask this through Christ Jesus. **ALL: Amen**



Sign of Peace

Pastor Jane

Christ Jesus, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our failings and doubts, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kin-dom where you live for ever and ever

All: Amen

The Peace of the Christ 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.

Sacred Music *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Ready the Way

Refrain

Ready the way, ready the way,
ready the way of the Lord.
Ready the way, ready the way,
ready the way of the Lord.

1. Make straight the road,
raise the valleys, and mountains make low.
Turning from sin, let the broken be whole,
and ready the way of the Lord.

2. As we wait for you,
give us the strength to walk in your truth,
so we may love more like you
and ready the way for you, Lord.

3. Let us see your face;
in our hearts we prepare a place.
Come bring this world
your mercy and grace,
as we ready the way for you, Lord..

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Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop

Deacon Rosean

**ALL: Holy One, Enlivening Spirit,
In the wilderness of new,
root the Body of Christ fully into our “Yes,”**

**blooming in Your Holy Season.
Together. Amen**

Offertory *All to hold up their nourishment*

Pastor Jane

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts of our
community, of time, talent and treasure to offer,
gratefully given, and the work of human hands.

May our offerings increase our Light as
instruments of your peace. May we continue to
give as we are called and able.
ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Our Celebration of Food

Pastor Jane

The Love of God be with you all.

All: And also with you.



Life up your hearts
Let us give thanks

**All: We lift them up to God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Let us welcome God and God's creative spirit. God has called us to gather around these tables this evening, knowing that all tables are God's table. I remind you of the theology of Ronald Rolheiser, "The incarnation began with Jesus and it has never stopped . . . God takes on flesh so that every home becomes a church, every child becomes the Christ-child, and all food and drink become a sacrament. God's many faces are now everywhere, in flesh, tempered and turned down, so that our human eyes can see him."

So... let our homes and our hearts be a dwelling place for God. May we see Christ in one another as kin together in God's family. And may we trust that the food before us is sacrament. God is present to each of us, and God's grace is abundant and in our midst.

All: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this food before us. May we offer our gratitude for all the ways you nurture us into wholeness. We bless you God, with our gratitude.

Pastor Jane

We give you thanks for the mystery of the myriad of ways you show up in our lives as both Creator and Creation. We thank you for all that is, and for the Breath of Life that is You throughout the cosmos. We see You in one another, and throughout creation. We share your Breath with

one another, with our ancestors, and with all those yet to be. Even in these new and challenging times, You are bringing to birth through us a new heaven joined with a new earth, and like the early followers of Jesus, we gather together as family and kin.

O Sacred One, who blesses us and calls us Beloved, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us gathered around tables throughout your world and gathered as one in You that we may become bright Lights of Your love in the world.

Today we remember a story of your Eternal Word, Jesus, who on the night before he died gathered at a table with his family and friends. That night he took bread, he took wine, for they were the food and drink on the table before him. He blessed them and shared them with all those who were present. He told them that his love for them was boundless because your love for creation is boundless. Let us take the food before us, and let us be confident that you have blessed this food as well. May it be a blessing to our bodies, that our bodies may be a blessing to your world.

God of all Kin-ship, You have made this food which feeds us. May we be open to the ways you connect to us in relationship and your holy dance with us. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen

The Amma/Abba Prayer

Deacon Rosean

Knowing that we are in Christ and called to be the body of Christ in the world, we pray with the fullest trust the prayer of Jesus:



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

Pastor Jane

Deliver us O Loving God, from turning away from you and from all fear. Help us to prepare with joy and hope for the coming among us of our Brother and Savior, Christ Jesus.

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

Reception for Spiritual Communion

Pastor Jane

Let us open our hearts and our hands in prayer, knowing that in this prayer we both give to and receive from our God.

All: Jesus, our hearts are Your Tabernacle. You live in us. You love in us. Your Light shines through us. Come now, and visit us with Your grace. Make us to be more like You. May we receive Your fullness in this

food as You desire. May we become Your Body in the world today. Amen.

Our homes and our hearts are a dwelling place for God. The food before us is sacrament, and God's grace is abundant and in our midst. May it be the healing Light of health in mind and body. Please spend a moment now, receiving God's grace as you eat and drink what is on your table

Prayer after Spiritual Communion

Deacon Rosean

Let us pray...

Pastor Jane

Ever Faithful, Compassionate God, today we honor, glorify, and watch for you. You, Christ Jesus, ask to stay in human form through us, your disciples. May we offer, as the Spirit directs, that

which Jesus freely gives us: divine guidance, compassion, reconciliation and acceptance. We ask this through Christ Jesus.

ALL: Amen

Blessing

Pastor Jane

May Amma/Abba God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

In this celebration of Word and Eucharist, Christ Jesus speaks to us in Truth and in Love. Bowing our heads, let us ask for God's blessing that we may live our call.

May our All Loving God who is above all and through all and in all fill you with understanding and expectation.

All: Amen

Dismissal – Deacon Rosean

Go in peace to wait, watch, and work in preparation for Christ among and within us.

All: Thanks be to God



Closing Song - (please join in with Bill while muted)

Emmanuel

Refrain

Come, come, Emmanuel!
Son of God, appear.
Heaven and earth, rejoice!
Salvation is drawing near.
Salvation is drawing near.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

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