



## Mary of Magdala, ECC September 12, 2021 - Celebration of the Birth of Mary, Mother of God In Sanctuary and on Zoom

Participants at home may wish to prepare their home worship space with a lit candle  
and the food and drink to be remotely shared.

### Announcements *Lector Jim Berry*

**BLM/Social Justice reflection** *Tom Moos, Chair Social Justice Ministry*  
(Pause to hold this message in our hearts.)

### Entrance Song *(please join in singing)*

#### Hail Mary: Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blest is the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
oh, pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death. Amen.

Refrain  
Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright,

gentle Mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.  
Oh, teach us love.

Ave, ave, María.  
Santa tú eres.  
Dios te salve.  
Bendecida, María.  
Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.

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### Greeting *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Let us begin our celebration as one expression of  
God's people in the name of Amma/Abba God,  
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit Sophia.  
**ALL: Amen**

The grace of our brother Jesus, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit- the life-  
giving Trinity- be with you all.  
**ALL: And also with you.**

### Penitential Rite – *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Let us remember our God who gave to us Our  
Blessed Mother...

Visionary God,  
You chose Mary as your Mother from before the  
beginning of time.  
God have mercy.  
**ALL: God have mercy.**

Vulnerable God,  
You incarnated as an infant, trusting in human  
parents to raise you.  
Christ have mercy.  
**ALL: Christ have mercy.**

Protecting God,  
From the cross, you gave your Mother to us as  
Mother of all.



God have mercy.  
**ALL: God have mercy.**

Creator God, Today we honor the birth of your  
Mother, Mary, Fill us, also, with Your Divine Love

that we may be the bearers of Your Love to heal  
a suffering world.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
**ALL: Amen**

*Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina*

Let us sing our praises to our God.

## **Glory to God –** *(please join in singing)*

Mass of the Joyful Heart

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 –**

*Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina*

Let us pray

*Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Mary Of Nazareth, Mother of God,  
today we give praise and celebrate the day of  
your birth as the dawn of our salvation. You are  
the safe sanctuary which contained the God that  
cannot be contained.

In the name of Christ, we pray.  
**ALL: Amen**

*Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina*

Now let us joyfully listen to the Word of God, the Good News, in our midst.

## **Liturgy of the Word**

**1st Reading** - *The Reed of God: A New Edition of a Spiritual Classic* by Caryll Houselander - *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

Christ must be born from every soul, formed in  
every life. If we had a picture of Our Lady's  
personality we might be dazzled into thinking

that only one sort of person could form Christ in  
himself, and we should miss the meaning of our  
own being.



Nothing but things essential for us are revealed to us about the Mother of God: the fact that she was wed to the Holy Spirit and bore Christ into the world.

Our crowning joy is that she did this as a lay person and through the ordinary daily life that

we all live-- through natural love made supernatural, as the water at Cana was, at her request, turned into wine.

Let us reflect upon these inspired words.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**(Pause for 2 minutes of silent prayer.)**

## **Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 9, 1-2, 7-9** – *Lector Jim Berry*

The response is: Open our hearts, O Beloved!

**All: Open our hearts, O Beloved!**

Give thanks to the beloved with your whole heart; tell the story of Love's way. Be glad and dance with joy; sing praises to the Name above all names, as illusions are dispelled, as they fade away from Love's face. For you, O Beloved, are ever present, ready to enter open hearts.

**All: Open our hearts, O Beloved!**

Love will abide forever; you have established yourself. You have established yourself in secret

places, seeking out receptive hearts, ready to enter and make your dwelling place within.

Love is a stronghold for the oppressed, a foundation in difficult times. For you, O Beloved, are ever-present to those who search for you. Sing praises to the One who is love, who dwells in our hearts!

**All: Open our hearts, O Beloved!**

## **The Second Reading from *Miryam of Nazareth* - by Ann Johnson** - *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

### ***Magnificat of Friendship***

My soul flowers in the light of your love, my God, and my spirit sings Alleluia in the reality of your joyful presence, because you have chosen my kinswoman and me with the summons of your eyes.

Yes, we are known now and for all time. We are known as women, blessed. Holy is your name.

The tenderness of your hand rests on us as we journey in your way.

Your power in my life has led me into the embrace of loving arms.

You have exposed my lonely pride that I might turn my head to your nurturing breast.

You have revealed the hollowness of achievements and have opened in

my heart a space filled with simple, loving moments.

My hunger you have satisfied, my excess you have ignored.

You are my help as I remember your tender love for me, for we have touched each other, you and I, and we have made promises. . .

I remember your tenderness for all that you have begun in me and in those with whom I walk, and I respond with all that I am becoming in this hour and in all times to come.

Let us reflect upon the Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**(Pause for 2 minutes of silent prayer.)**



## Gospel Acclamation – Join in singing

*Mass of the Joyful Heart*

Refrain

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;

you have the words of everlasting life.

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## Gospel Reading – Gospel of James - Co-Pastor Rev. Jane Reina

Our God is with you.

A reading from the apocryphal Gospel of James

Anna was grieved exceedingly and went down to the garden to walk. She saw a laurel tree and sat under it and prayed to God, saying: O God of our fathers, bless me and hear my prayer, as Thou didst bless the womb of Sarah, and didst give her a son, Isaac.

And gazing toward the heaven, she saw a sparrow's nest in the laurel, and made a lamentation in herself, saying: Alas! Who begot me? and what womb produced me?... Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like the fowls of the heaven, because even the fowls of the heaven are productive before Thee, O God. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like the beasts of the earth, because even the beasts of the earth are productive before Thee, O God. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like these waters, because even these waters are productive before Thee, O God. Alas! to what have I been likened? I am not like this earth, because even the earth bringeth forth its fruits in season, and blesseth Thee, O God.

And, behold, an angel of the Lord stood by, saying: Anna, Anna, God hath heard thy prayer, and thou shalt conceive and shall bring forth; and

**All: And Also with you**

**All: Glory to you, O God.**

thy seed shall be spoken of in all the world. And Anna said: As my God liveth, if I beget either male or female, I will bring the child as a gift to my God; and it shall minister to God in holy things all the days of its life.

And, behold, two angels came, saying to her: Behold, Joachim thy husband is coming with his flocks...Anna stood by the gate, and saw Joachim coming, and she ran and hung upon his neck, saying: Now I know that God hath blessed me exceedingly; for, behold, I, the childless shall conceive...

And her months were fulfilled. In the ninth month Anna brought forth. And she said to the midwife: What have I brought forth? The midwife replied: A girl. And Anna said: My soul has been magnified this day. The days having been fulfilled, Anna was purified, and gave the breast to the child, and called her name Mary.

This is an apocryphal reading from the Gospel of James.

**All: Praise to you, Jesus, our Christ.**

## Homily Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

## Prayers of the People

*Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Most Holy Mother of God, intercede for all your faithful and accept our prayers into the holy place where our loving God may hear them



Lector Jim Berry

Our response will be: Mary, our Mother, Pray for us.

**Mary, our Mother, Pray for us!**

For expectant mother and new mothers, that they will look to Mary and her mother, St. Anne, for guidance and companioning in the role as mothers, we pray.

**Mary, our Mother, Pray for us!**

For all women, especially those who are fleeing oppression, abuse, and violence, that they will be comforted in their struggles and losses, we pray.

**Mary, our Mother, Pray for us!**

For all grandmothers and grandfathers on this Grandparents Day, that they will grow in loving, supportive relationships with their children and grandchildren, we pray.

**Mary, our Mother, Pray for us!**

I will now read the prayers from those in the sanctuary. For those on Zoom, please type your prayer into the chat to be read by Anne.

And for those on our Prayer List and all the prayers held in our hearts, we pray,

**All: Loving God, hear us.**

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

O God of infinite possibilities, remind us of the great possibility of prayer to effect change for the good. Help each of us to truly believe that with You nothing is impossible. This we pray in Jesus' name

**All: Amen**

## Sign of Peace

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina

Virtually and in the sanctuary, let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Preparation of our Tables Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink here and in our homes, 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. The offertory basket is here in front of the altar for any offering you may have.

### Offertory Song (please join in singing)

#### **Holy is His Name (Mary's Magnificat)**

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
and my spirit exalts in God my Savior.  
For he has looked with mercy on my lowliness,  
and my name will be forever exalted.  
For the mighty God has done great things for me,

and his mercy will reach from age to age.

Refrain

And holy, holy, holy is his name.



2. He has mercy in ev'ry generation.  
He has revealed his power and his glory.  
He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance,  
and has lifted up the meek and the lowly.  
He has come to help his servant Israel;

he remembers his promise to our fathers.

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## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Eucharistic Prayer - Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina

*The following is said during the offertory song*

*Blessed are you, God of all creation, through your  
goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth  
has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life. 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.*

*Blessed are you, God of all creation, through your  
goodness we have this wine to offer. Fruit of the*

*vine and work of human hands, it will become our  
spiritual drink. Blessed be God forever.*

*Loving and sustaining God of Hope, from Mary and  
Jesus we have learned of your Great Love. Make of  
these humble fruits of our Earth nourishment that  
endures within us and within all creation. Use us,  
as your disciples and prophets, bringing hope to  
our world.*

*We ask this through Jesus our Christ. All: Amen*

### Prayer Over the Gifts - Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina

Pray, sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice  
may be acceptable to God, the Source and  
Ground of our Being.

Christ is with you  
Lift your hearts  
Let us give thanks to our Loving God

Amma/Abba God, we do well always and  
everywhere to offer you thanks through Jesus  
our Christ.

Here in this place and across the miles that  
separate us it is indeed right and good to thank  
you and praise you, O Loving God, through Jesus  
our Christ. Burning in his heart was your love for  
us and your passion for justice. By asking that  
your will be done, he proclaimed your message  
to your people of a new humanity, a world of  
hope, and emptied himself and died for this same

**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 the Church.**

**All: And also with you.**

**All: We lift them up to God.**

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

message. In awe of so great a love and  
acknowledging our own participation in it, we  
join St. Mary of Nazareth, mother of Jesus, and  
all the disciples and prophets who have gone  
before us, and all creation in their unending song  
of your glory:

**Holy** – (Please join in singing)  
*Mass of the Joyful Heart*

**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,  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.**

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Flowing from the glory that was yours before all time and space, the Love that you shared in the act of Creation, and the same Love that was revealed in the mystery of your Incarnation through a Woman and which now flows over us—send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon the offerings here set before you.

Bless these gifts that they may become the ultimate sign and symbol of Christ's hope and inclusive blessing. Together with our members of this Body of Christ who are gathered in all locations, we remember what Jesus did at table and in life.

Among friends, gathered round a table,  
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 you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Jesus our Christ, until you come again.**

Loving God, we celebrate the memory of Jesus our Christ, Incarnated through a Woman, all that Christ did and continues to do to bring us to wholeness together. While we ask you to remember all our sisters and brothers of many faiths and spiritual paths, remember, too, your Church, united across the miles.

Help us grow in love, together with all who hear and follow the calling handed down from the Apostles. Continue to guide us as a community for the special ministry given to the Body of Christ, praying especially for its local incarnation.

Remember, O Loving God, all those who have died, especially those who were failed by our society and died in want. ...

Welcome them into your all-embracing, loving presence with St. Mary, called and chosen among women, our patron Mary of Magdala, and all your apostles, martyrs, and saints who were willing to follow the radical call of Jesus.

**All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Loving Amma/Abba God, forever and ever**

**AMEN** - *(Join in singing)*  
*Mass of the Joyful Heart*

**Amen, amen, amen.**

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## **The Prayer of Jesus and Mary** - *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Let us join our hearts together with God, and pray as we hold the world in these words:

**All: Abba/Amma, God who are 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**



Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

### The Shared Table - *Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina*

**Lamb of God** - *Mass of the Joyful Heart*  
(Please join in singing)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

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This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin  
of the world. Happy are we who are called to this  
supper.

**All: Jesus, our Christ, I am worthy to receive  
you, because by your Word I am healed.**

May this mingling of the body and blood of our  
Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who  
receive it.

Redeemer, Jesus Christ, with faith in your love  
and mercy we eat your body and drink your  
blood. May it bring us health in mind and body.

**All: Amen.**

### Invitation to Communion - *Co-Pastor Rev Jane Reina*

As we partake of this food for our journey, 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.**

And so we commit ourselves to the community  
of faith in which this wonder unfolds.  
May the mystery of our participation in this  
sacred mystery enliven our faith, inspire our

service, and incarnate God's Compassionate Love  
wherever we may be.

This food from God is offered to the people of  
God, without exception. All are welcome, here  
and virtually at this banquet of Love. Let your  
hunger be satisfied

May all who choose, enjoy bread and wine at  
your own table-altar!

### Communion Song *-(please join in singing)* **Sacred Silence**

Refrain  
Sacred silence, holy ocean,  
gentle water, washing over me;  
help me listen, Holy Spirit.  
Come and speak to me.

1. God my Father, Christ my brother,  
Holy Spirit, sanctifying me;  
Lord, I'm sorry,  
please forgive me.  
Come and set me free.





2. Holy Mary, gentle mother,  
God's pure vessel,  
praying for me;  
saints and angels, all in heaven,

come and be with me.

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## Prayer after Communion and Blessing-

*Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*  
Let us pray

Amma/Abba God,  
Of all women you chose Mary of Nazareth as  
your earthly Mother. She is the one whom  
ancient prophets promised would be the  
Theotokos, the God-bearer. This was the highest  
mission ever commended by any of your  
creatures.

May our celebration of Mary's birth bring us  
closer to lasting peace and make the virtues that  
she modeled –loving You, God, and our neighbors  
more perfectly–develop in our lives.  
Grant this through Jesus our brother.

**ALL: Amen**

May the love of God be with you all.  
**ALL: And also with you.**

Please open your hearts as together we ask for  
God's blessing:

Loving God, May we be forever blessed by the  
presence of your Mother, Mary, in our lives.

**ALL: AMEN**

May we feel her powerful intercession with our  
Brother Jesus on our behalf.

**ALL: AMEN**

And may we recognize every human birth as a  
call for new hope in the world.

**ALL: AMEN**

We ask for this blessing now in the name of  
Amma/Abba God, Jesus, our Brother, and the  
Holy Spirit, Sophia.

**All: Amen**

## Dismissal

*Co-Pastor Rev. Jane Reina*

Let us go forth into the world inspired by the wisdom and faith of Our Blessed Mother to fulfill the will of God  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Closing Song - (please join in singing)

### Jesus I Trust in You

Refrain

Jesus, I trust in you, giver of mercy.  
Jesus, I trust in you, O Font of Life.  
Healer, teacher, Savior and friend,  
Jesus, I trust in you.  
All that I am is in your hands.

2. As you gave up yourself, Lord,

into your Father's hands,  
so let me give myself  
to all that is your will.  
And as you emptied yourself,  
fulfilled Love's perfect plan,  
let me be emptied,  
that my life might be fulfilled.

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