Mary of Magdala, ECC December 14, 2025
3rd Sunday in Advent – A Light-Bearing Community
The Kin-dom of God – All Together Everywhere
Presider: Rev. Jane Reina
Welcome and Announcements Lector Vicki Johnson
Social Justice Reflection Tom Moos
Opening Emmanuel (R; V1; R; V2; R)

Lighting the Advent Candle after the Opening Hymn

Let us pray together as the 3rd candle on the Advent wreath is lit:

All: Christ, Light of the World, energize the flame that burns within us as this candle of Joy is lit.

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

GREETING – Ad Lib

Christ, Light of the World, is within you.

All: And also within you.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Holy Mystery, most loving, unite us with all creation as we are a part of and not separate from all that the original living Flame. As co-creators with the Divine, we recognize our inadequacies, mistakes and setbacks. Therefore, we promise to become more fully the Light in our world.

As we prepare to receive the Word of God and the miracle of the Eucharist, let us humbly accept God's unconditional love as 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* as we turn with deep longing and open hearts for the oneness you offer. We come in fragility and vulnerability to love you, who first loved us.

Christ, we ask for the grace to BE your Light in our world of cruelty and grief and also beauty and mystery.

All: Remind us, O Christ, that you are the universe and this universe is you.

Jesus, when we are seduced by the illusion of tribal safety, help us re-center ourselves in you, our cosmic safety.

All: Remind us, O Jesus, that we are embodied within the primal cosmos with you.

Christ, help us in community to relinquish our self-righteousness and live more spaciously within and from your heart's Light.

All: Remind us, O Christ, that all tribes become one tribe in you.

Spirit of Wisdom, bearer of Light throughout the cosmos, dispel our illusions of satisfaction in material purchasing and instill in us the deeper truth of spiritual abundance without transaction.

All: Spirit of Wisdom, you are the flowing flame that ignites us into one light.

O Holy Fire, we are a community seeking an ever-deepening intimacy with you and all creation. Help us to express more fully the love that is alive within our Mary of Magdala.

For your Flaming Light, we give you thanks.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

God, the Blessed Holy Three, is within you.

All: And also within you.

Let us pray

All: O Holy Light, you are the One Who IS, always the I AM, the Creator pouring Itself into its Creation. Our relationship of creation and Creator flourishes as an eternally entangled evolving relationship.

We thank you for calling us into this world, and for the grace to be your Light-Bearer.

When we hear your Word, mysteriously our light shines more brightly.

ALL: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Lector Vicki Johnson*

A Reading from the prophet **Isaiah 35:1-2a, 2c-8a, 10**

The wilderness and the parched land will exult,
the desert will rejoice and bloom.
Like the first flowers of spring, they shall burst into bloom,
and rejoice with joyous song.
The glory of God will be seen in the barren land,
the majesty of God revealed.
Strengthen shaking hands!
Steady trembling knees!
Say to those anxious and fearful of heart:
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God who comes with vindication.
With divine justice, God comes to restore you."
Then, the eyes of those who cannot see will be opened,
and the ears of those who cannot hear will be unstopped.
Those who cannot walk will leap like a deer,
and the speechless tongue will sing for joy.

Waters will gush in the desert,
and streams flow in parched land.
A highway will appear there too,
a road called "the Holy Way."
Upon it, God's people, restored, will return,
and enter the Holy City with singing.
Unending joy will be their crown.
Sorrow and sighing will take flight.
Joy and gladness will be their escort.
The Word of a post exilic prophet known as Second Isaiah.
All; Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **We Are The Light (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)**

Second Reading *Lector Matt Chavez*

***"Remember"* by Joy Harjo, from She Had Some Horses.**
Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.
Remember the moon, know who she is.
Remember the sun's birth at dawn,
that is the strongest point of time.
Remember sundown and the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother's, and hers.
Remember your father. He is your life, also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.
Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.

Remember you are all people and all people
are you.
Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.
Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember language comes from this.
Remember the dance language is, that life is.
Remember.
Words inspired by God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acc. Alleluia (Mass of St MM)(V3)

Gospel Pastor Jane Reina

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

A Proclamation of the Gospel attributed to Matthew 11:2-10, 14-15

All: Glory to you, O God.

After John was imprisoned, he heard what the Messiah was doing. John sent word by his disciples with this question for Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered John's disciples, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: Those who could not see receive sight; those who could not walk, now walk; those called "unclean" are made "clean"; those who were deaf now hear; the dead are raised; and those who are poor have the Good News proclaimed to them. Blessed are they who take no offense at me."

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed blowing in the wind? No? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? No! Those who wear

fine clothing are in palaces. What then, did you go out to see?
A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the
one about whom it is written,
'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'
...And, if you are willing to accept it, John is Elijah, the
messenger foretold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."
The Good news of Jesus, our Christ.
All: Praise to you, Jesus our Christ.

Homily **Rev. Jane**

Prayers of the People

As part of the natural world, we lift the natural needs of Mary of Magdala and the needs of the spiritual communities in our world.

Lector Matt Chavez

Our response is: Christ of Joy, receive our prayers.
All: Christ of Joy, receive our prayers
Beloved, for the health and well-being of our priests, our soon-to-be deacons, our community, our families and friends, we pray.
All: Christ of Joy, receive our prayers
Beloved, for the courage and wisdom to share our abundant gifts of our planet, our home, we pray.
All: Christ of Joy, receive our prayers
Beloved, with Your love for us, help us transform our minds and hearts to a deeper knowledge and experience of You, we pray.
All: Christ of Joy, receive our prayers
Our prayers from the sanctuary are …, we pray.
All: Christ of Joy, receive our prayers
Our prayers from zoom are . . ., we pray.
All: Christ of Joy, receive our prayers
We offer our prayers for all people on our Prayer List and in our hearts, we pray.

All: Christ of Joy, receive our prayers

You hear our prayers, O God of all gods, more deeply than we can speak them. You hear the prayers we cannot formulate. In your compassion, hear our prayers.

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 if you wish. Let us sing together:

Offertory **Come To Us (Angrisano) (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; 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 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. As you invite us, you accept our childish love, our deep love, our adolescent love, our failings and longings. By the grace at this table and the Eucharistic grace in the world, we are here absorbing the Light of the Good News, growing into adult love and BE-ing that Light in our world. Grant us, O Christ, what these gifts of bread and wine signify: that shedding our illusions, we open ourselves to You. **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.**
We offer you thanks and praise, Blessed One of universal compassion and love. To you we offer thanks and praise everywhere and always as our ancestors have done throughout time. You, O God, are our primal desire, continually
calling 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, death and resurrection. Through our Baptism we are ministers to all creation.

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

Holy **(Mass of St MM)**

Eucharistic Prayer

Divine mystery, our hearts naturally sing your praise. With loving tenderness, you have gathered us and filled us with a longing for justice that will never fail and a peace that will last. Through countless generations, your people hungered for the bread of freedom. From them, you raised up Jesus, the living Bread, in whom our ancient hungers are satisfied. Jesus the Christ is the Word that liberates us from injustice and violence. Jesus the Christ is the hand that stretches out to heal the sick, the poor, and the oppressed. Jesus the Christ is the Way of peace and deep joy. Flowing from the Exquisite Love visible and invisible throughout the entire cosmos, send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of our planetary home. I invite you to stretch out your hands over these gifts with me, and Cindy and avid. O Holiness Itself, make these gifts of bread and wine ++holy, that they may become the 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. Do this, in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Memorial Acc. (Mass of St MM)

Mystery who calls us forward through Jesus our Christ, you have entrusted us with this Passover meal, your covenant 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 the Holy Spirit convert us from the pattern of this passing world, and conform us to the pattern of Christ.

We remember, all those who have died … and welcome them into your all-embracing love.

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.
Amen (Mass of St MM)

The Prayer of Jesus

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

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.

Invitation to Communion

The Shared Table – Meditation song while bread is broken

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

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

As we share in this unending sign of love, let us proclaim together:

All: In this we are a Eucharistic people, the Body and Blood of Christ incarnate, given for the life of the world.

Pause while the Eucharistic ministers place the wine cups on the table

All of us are invited to stand up and step up to the table. Step into the Light that bears you that you may bear it. Come!

Communion **Come To Us (Walton&Walton)(V1; R; V2; R; V3; R)**

Prayer after Communion Let us pray… Christ of all life, we thank you for your gifts of the Bread of Peace and the Cup of Blessing. We look forward to the day when hope and peace becomes reality: when the lion will lie down with the lamb, our swords be melted into plowshares and "…no harm is done along the Holy Mountain." **All: Amen**

Final Blessing

May the Spirit of Christ, alive in all matter and spirit, fill us with the Fire of Life, touch us with deep joy, and energize us with that Light which enlivens all creation. In the name of Abba/Amma God, Jesus our Christ and the Holy Spirit Sophia.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go together as Mary of Magdala into the world bearing the Light that explodes throughout the cosmos. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Closing **Benedictus (R; V1; R; V2; R; V3; R 0**