



## Mary of Magdala, ECC Sunday Service – Dec 13, 2020

### Celebrating the Third Sunday of Advent –

#### How are we the voice that announces Christ to the world?

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

### Announcements – Lector Ruth Alexander

### Black Lives Matter – Tom Moos, Social Justice Co-Chair

### Entrance Song *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

#### Cry Out with Joy/You will Draw Water

##### Refrain

Cry out with joy  
for the Holy One is among you.  
Cry out with joy  
for the Holy One is among you.

1. Indeed God is my savior.  
I am confident and sure.

He is my courage. I am not afraid.  
My strength comes from the Lord.

2. Give thanks and praise to the Lord.  
Cry out among the nations.  
With joy you will draw living water  
from the fountain of salvation.

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### Greeting – Deacon Rosean

Let us begin as one expression of God's people.  
+ Father, Son, Holy Spirit. **All: Amen**

May the Holy Kiss of God, the tender care of the  
One who washes feet, and the passion of the Holy  
Spirit be with you all.

**ALL: And also with you**

### Penitential Rite – Deacon Rosean

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we hear the call  
to “rejoice always.” For the ways that our spirits  
have grown weary and for the sorrows that keep  
us from joy, let us turn to the Lord for healing and  
mercy.

Brother Jesus, you are the light that illuminates all  
darkness. Jesus, have mercy. **ALL: Jesus, have  
mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you heal the brokenhearted.

Christ, have mercy. **ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

Brother Jesus, you call us to fullness of life.  
Jesus, have mercy. **ALL: Jesus, have mercy.**

May our loving God shower us with grace, be  
forever present to us, forgive our sins, and bring  
us to everlasting joy and light. **All: Amen**

### Gloria –

*Anne Beavan*

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



*(All to Join in with Bill Smith on mute)*

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...

God of joy and consolation, guide us through this  
season of anticipation and hope. Comfort  
our troubled minds and strengthen our tired  
bodies. Restore the hope this season offers that  
we might lift our voices with strength and joy!

Straighten the crooked paths, that we might walk  
in your ways, and level the rocky ground, that we  
might prepare for your arrival in our world.  
In Christ's name, we pray. **ALL: Amen**

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 - *Lector Ruth Alexander*

The spirit of God is upon me because God has  
anointed me to bring good tidings to those who  
are afflicted; God has sent me to bind up the  
brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the  
captives, and the opening of the prison to those

who are bound; to proclaim the year of God's  
favor, and to comfort all who mourn. The Word  
of the prophet.

**ALL: Thanks be to Go**

### 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

By John Michael Talbot The: Magnificat; based on Luke 1:46-55. Text and music © 1980, Birdwing Music/BMG Songs, Inc.  
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## Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 - lector Jim Berry

Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing! Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the desire of God's heart for you in Jesus the Christ. Do not quench the Spirit or despise prophetic utterances, but test everything. Retain what is good, and abstain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you complete and whole, and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept

sound and blameless at the coming of Jesus, the Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and will accomplish it in you.

The word of the Apostle Paul.

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

## '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: John 1:6-8, 19-24 - Anne Beavan

May the Word be with you.  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. John came for testimony, to be a witness to the light, that all might believe through him. John was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you? John confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked, "What then? Are you Elijah?" John said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he

**ALL: And also with you.**  
**ALL: Glory to you, O God**

answered, "No." They said then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

The Good News of Salvation

**ALL: Glory and Praise to the Word Incarnate**

## Homily - Deacon Rosean



## Magnificat of Acceptance – *Lector Ruth Alexander*

Adapted from the book *Miryam of Nazareth*, by Ann Johnson

My soul trembles in the presence of the loving Creator  
 and my spirit prepares itself to walk hand in hand  
 with the God who saves,  
 because I have been accepted by God  
 as a co-Redeemer.

Yes, forever in the life of humankind  
 people will sing of this loving encounter.  
 Through remembering this moment, the faithful  
 will know all things are possible in God.

Holy is the place within me where God lives.  
 God's tender fingers reach out from age to age  
 to touch the softened inner spaces of those  
 who open their souls in hope.  
 I have experienced the creative power of God's  
 embracing arms  
 and I know the cleansing fire of unconditional love.

I know my bonding to the Author of all earthly things.  
 I am filled with the news of good things;  
 my favor with God  
 faithful trust in the gentle shadow of the Most High,  
 the mystery of my Son Jesus,  
 the gift of companionship with my beloved  
 kinswoman,  
 Elizabeth, who believes as I believe.

The place in my heart that I had filled  
 with thoughts of fear and inadequacy  
 has been emptied and I am quiet within.

God comes to save our holy family,  
 remembering that we are the ones who remember...  
 according to the kinship we have known. . .  
 that where God and people trust each other,  
 there is home.

Words inspired by God.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God**

## Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop - *Anne Beavan*

Let us join together in praying for the guidance of all members of our regional ECC communities:

*(All to Join in on mute)*  
**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**

## Prayers of the People

*Deacon Rosean -*

With hope and joy, let us bring our needs before our loving God

*Lector Jim Berry*

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.

*(Jim 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.**



Deacon Rosean

God of Joy, in times of darkness, grief, and sorrow, you send us the light of your mercy and compassion. Hear our prayers in the name of the One John pointed to, Christ Jesus, Your Living Word. **ALL: Amen**

### Sign of Peace - Deacon Rosean

Celebrating the power of mercy and love, may the Peace of Christ be with you always

The Peace of the Christ be with you always.  
**All: And also with you**

Anne Beavan

Let us all go to “gallery view” and please unmute yourself by holding down your space bar so that we might share an offering of Christ’s peace with one another.

### Offertory/Meditation Song (please join in with Bill while muted)

#### Holy is His Name

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.

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.

Refrain

And holy, holy, holy is God's name.

Refrain

And holy, holy, holy is God's name.

Holy, holy, holy is God's name.

2. He has mercy in ev'ry generation.

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### Preparation of our Tables- Anne Beavan

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.

### Our Celebration of Food – Deacon Rosean

May the Word be with you  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to our God.

**All: And also with you.**  
**All: We open them to God.**  
**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Gracious God of our hearts, we offer our food and  
drink and prepare our greatest gift, the inclusive  
table of your Son.

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: body, mind and spirit. We bless you God, with our gratitude.

Breath of God, Ruach, send your Holy Spirit upon us gathered around tables throughout your world and gathered as one in You that we may become visible signs of Your love in this world.

Today on this "Sunday of Joy," we have shared some of your gifts to us, testifying to You, the true light. May we know in the recesses of our souls

Your unconditional love which nothing--sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death-- can take away. This knowing is our eternal Joy and Hope.

Beloved, may You open our eyes and hearts to Your presence in all your children, that we may nourish others as You have nourished us. In Jesus' name we pray.

**ALL: Amen**

## The Prayer of Jesus— *Deacon Rosean*

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

*(All to Join in on mute)*

**Amma/Abba God, who art in Heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy 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 be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

## Reception for Spiritual Communion – *Deacon Rosean*

Before we share and eat the food on our tables, I remind you that God invited you here today. Wherever you are on journey, God is with you. Let us share together these words of celebration of God with the food God has provided:

**ALL: Jesus our hearts are Your Tabernacle. You live in us. You love in 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.

## Sacred Music During Spiritual Communion *Join in with Bill Smith while on mute*

### Come to Us

Refrain  
Come to us, Jesus, come to us.  
Come to us, Jesus. Jesus, come.

1. For a world filled with darkness  
longs to see your light. For a world of despair

awaits that hopeful night.

2. We know not where this journey leads,  
we follow just our dreams.  
We travel far that we might kneel  
before a newborn King.



## Prayer after Spiritual Communion – Deacon Rosean

Let us pray...

God of all Goodness, may this meal we share feed us and bring us as One into the Body of Christ one family, one kin-dom.

Help us to prepare your way in our lives and to announce your coming in love to others. Help us

to practice joy as an act of resistance against despair. And may we be reminded always of the power of joy to bring your light into our world. In Christ's name we pray **All: Amen**

## Blessing – Deacon Rosean

The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Please open your hearts, as we ask for God's blessing.

May the God of peace make you complete and whole, and may your spirit, soul, and body, be

kept sound and blameless at the coming of Jesus, the Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful and will accomplish this in you.

And may you be blessed in the name of Amma/Abba God, our brother Jesus, and Holy Wisdom, Sophia **All: Amen**

## Dismissal – Anne Beavan

Go in peace to love and serve God and God's people and to REJOICE in God's light that you birth into the world

**All: Thanks be to God**

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

### Let all the Earth (Psalm 66)

Refrain

Let all the earth cry out,  
cry out to God with joy!  
Let all the earth cry out,  
cry out to God with joy!

1. Sing out your joy;  
praise the glory of God's holy name  
Say to the Lord: "Oh, how awesome are your mighty ways."

2. Come now and hear all the things  
our God has done for me.  
Blessed be the Lord who holds me close,  
whose love is surrounding me.

3. All the earth shall bow before you,  
singing to your holy name.  
See the work of God,  
the wonders of his deeds from age to age.

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