



Mary of Magdala, ECC March 21, 2021 Celebrating the 5th Sunday in Lent

Participants may wish to prepare their home altars with a lit candle, and the food and drink to be remotely shared.

Announcements *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

Social Justice Reflections *Tom Moos, co-chair Social Justice Ministry*

Pause to hold this message in our hearts.

Entrance Opening Song (please join in with Bill while muted)

All Are Welcome

Let us build a house
where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where
saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome
in this place.

Verse 4:

Let us build a house
where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen,
Serve and teach,
And live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;

Let us bring an end to fear and danger;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome
in this place.

Verse 5:

Let us build a house
Where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured,
Taught and claimed
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome
in this place.

Text: 96 86 87 10 with refrain; Marty Haugen
Music: Two Oaks; Marty Haugen Text and music c 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.
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Greeting *Father Michael Nicosia*

Let us enter more consciously into our Lenten journey
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May grace and peace with you in abundance
through the knowledge of God and of Christ's good news. **ALL: with Anne And also with you.**

Penitential Rite *Father Michael Nicosia*

Scandalously, the household of faith is not always welcoming.
Oh, we try to be affirming and inclusive,
but our best intentions will forever be limited without God's Grace.
Together we confess:



ALL: God of all mercy and compassion, we confess that we have sinned, falling short of your divine will. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will.

Father Michael Nicosia

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, ✠ and bring us to life everlasting.

ALL: with Anne AMEN.

Opening Prayer - *Father Michael Nicosia*

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Let us pray...

Father Michael Nicosia

Our Creator in heaven, to draw us together as a community of welcome your Son has handed himself over to death. Guide us in the ways of so great a love.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our brother, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and works now and forever.

ALL: with Anne AMEN.

And now let us listen to the inspired Word of God in our midst.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Letter of Jeremiah 31:31-34 - *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

“The days are coming,” says God, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt. They broke my covenant, even though I pledged myself to them,” declared God. “No, this is the covenant will make with the house of Israel when those days have come: I will plant my law within them, and write it upon their hearts.

I will be there God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have to teach their friends and family how to know God. All of them, from the least to the greatest alike, shall know me first-hand,” declares God.
The word of God.

ALL with Anne: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Psalm - Psalm Chant for Lent:

O Dios, Crea en Mi un Corazon/Create in me a Pure Heart, O God *sung by Bill Smith and Lynne Barnes*



Second Reading – Hebrews 5:7-9 *Lector David Cloyd*

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he

was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The word of God.

All: with Anne Thanks be to God.

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia – Mass of the Desert (*please join in with Bill while muted*)

Refrain

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be.

Mass of the Desert
Tom Booth

Gospel Reading - John 12: 20-33 *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

God is with you.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

All: with Anne And also with you.

All: with Anne Glory to you, O God.

There were some Greeks in town who had come up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, “Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?”

Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, “It’s time for the chosen one to be glorified. “

“Listen, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it is never more than a single grain. If it dies, it yields a rich harvest. In the same way, anyone who holds onto life just as it is, destroys that life. But if you let it go, in the abandon of your love, you will have it forever. Whoever serves me, must follow me. Where I am, there my servant will also be. Our Loving God will honor whoever serves me.

“But now, I am troubled. What shall I say? ‘My God, save me from this hour?’ But it is for this

very hour that I came in the first place! My God, glorify your name!

A voice came out of the heavens, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again. “ A crowd standing nearby heard this. Some said, “It was a clap of thunder.” Others said, “It was an angel speaking to Jesus.”

Jesus answered, “It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. The world is in crisis. The rulers of this world will be driven out. I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

Jesus phrased it this way to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: with Anne Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Homily *Father Michael Nicosia*

“a rich harvest”

Creed

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

We are using a new creed today from one of the Catholic Women Priests, Bridget Mary Meehan.



ALL: (together on mute)

**I believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, child of God, born of
Mary, human like us.**

**I believe Jesus came to teach us God's love,
to heal our minds, our bodies, our spirit,
to bring hope and a new vision,
to show us how to live in the fullness of grace.
I believe that Jesus threatened the establishment.
Jesus called for God's people to focus on the
kin-dom within.**

**I believe that because of the message that Jesus
proclaimed, Jesus was condemned to die.
Jesus was put to death through crucifixion,
buried in a borrowed tomb.**

**I believe that the women, faithful to Jesus, went
to the tomb to anoint his body.**

**I believe that the body of Jesus was gone,
and Jesus overcame death through the
resurrection.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, eternally living in our
hearts, present in our world, in our universe.**

**I believe the holy Catholic Church is the people
gathered in worship and song.**

**I believe that all God's children will one day be
with God experiencing life everlasting. Amen.**

Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop - *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

Let us join together in our Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop

(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

Father Michael Nicosia

As we focus on our interconnectedness with God and with one another,
let us affirm our commitment to live beyond ourselves by interceding for the needs of the Church and the world

Lector David Cloyd

The response is: Compassionate God, hear our prayers. **ALL: with Anne Compassionate God, hear our prayers**

For all in the Mary of Magdala community who
journey with us during this Lenten season, that
our hearts will be opened to new ways of seeing
and responding to the needs of the sick, the
suffering, and marginalized people around us,
we pray...
**ALL with Anne: Compassionate God, hear our
prayers.**

For openness to peoples of different races, sexual
orientations, and economic status, that we will
respond to them with compassion and love,
we pray...
**ALL with Anne: Compassionate God, hear our
prayers.**

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.



(Lector to read each prayer on “chat”)we pray... **All: with Anne Compassionate God, hear our prayers.**

And for those on our Prayer List and all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray:

All: with Anne Compassionate God, hear our prayers.

Father Michael Nicosia

Creator God, you poured out your very Self in the act of Creation, longing to share the love that flowed within your Triune Being. Honor the prayers of your people, and keep us ever mindful of the good news affirmed through your Son, Jesus our brother, whose love glorifies your Name. **All: with Anne Amen.**

Sign of Peace

Father Michael Nicosia

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

All: with Anne And also with you.

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Affirming our nature as relational beings, let us unmute and go to Gallery View on our screens and share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Offertory Meditation *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

Christ in Me Arise

Refrain

Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.

Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.

Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.

Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.

1. Be now my vision; open these eyes, showing me all that I must see.

Onward to the kingdom, you are the way.

Arise in me and I shall rise with you.

2. Be now my footsteps, leading the way, taking me where I must go.

Onward to the kingdom, you are the way.

Arise in me and I shall rise with you.

Bridge

You know my heart and you know my ways,

you who formed me in my mother’s womb.

I live and move in you, my whole being thrives in you.

Final Refrain

Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.

Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.

Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.

Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.

Christ in me arise, Christ in me arise,

Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.

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Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of our Table *- Co-Pastor Rev. Jane Reina*

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. Please continue to give as you are called and able.



Offertory *Father Michael Nicosia*

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 we affirm that all is holy when united to you. Blessed be God forever. **All: with Anne Amen.**

Prayer Over the Gifts - *Father Michael Nicosia*

We thank you, O God, for all that you have entrusted to us.

Bless these gifts and direct how we can use them for the welfare of all, in the power of your love through Christ, our example. **All: with Anne Amen.**

The Love of God be with you all.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to our Loving God.

All: with Anne And also with you.

All : with Anne We lift them up to God.

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

Good and gracious God, we acknowledge you as present in our midst, and we give you glory. Into a world of interrelatedness you created us; for one another, in partnership with all living things, you made us relational beings at our core. Yet we often focus on our wants, our wants, our desires, and separate ourselves from one another and from you.

Yet in your mercy you emptied yourself that a sum greater than its individual parts might be restored.

In life's cycles of dying and rising we see your work:
–the death of a seed that leads to life more abundant;
a handful of grain, crushed
to become one in the baking;
–a single loaf, broken, consumed,
that we might be one in the sharing;
–a community of stories, pondered and retold
that we might be one in the remembering;

–a Lamb's blood smeared on a cross,
a single life broken in selfless love
that we might be one through his offering;
–and ourselves, too, broken and shared
that all might be one in the loving and living and
serving and giving.

Into this mystery we immerse ourselves, letting go of our Selves to join with all the choirs of heaven to sing of your glory and praise:

HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God,

Lord God, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Father Michael Nicosia*

Self-emptying God, your Son showed us that your name is glorified whenever relationships are restored and celebrated.

Look with kindness on your people gathered here before you: send forth the power of your Spirit so that these gifts may become for us the body ✠ and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



In this meal we celebrate how Jesus, living into the fullness of his relational divinity and humanity, offered his life for the life of the world. Yet before he stretched out his arms between heaven and earth in the everlasting sign of your covenant, he desired to celebrate the Paschal feast in the company of his disciples.

While they were at supper, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

ALL: *(together on mute)* **Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, which will be given up for you.**

At the end of the meal, knowing that he would show us the path to reconciliation in the blood of the cross, he took the cup filled with wine. Again he gave you thanks and praise, handed the cup to his disciples, and said:

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.

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: *(together on mute)* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We do this in memory of Jesus Christ our Passover and our lasting peace. We celebrate his death and resurrection and look for the coming of that day when he will return to give us the fullness of joy. Therefore we offer you, God ever faithful and true, the sacrifice which restores our relationship with you and with one another.

Father ever faithful, Mother ever-nurturing, look with love on those you have called to share in the one sacrifice of Christ. By the power of your Holy Spirit make them one body, healed of all division.

Keep us all in communion of mind and heart with all who hold and teach the Good News of your inclusive love, within our Beloved Communion and beyond.

Remember all our siblings of many faiths and spiritual paths, who each bring their own insights to the holy conversations that unpack the mystery of you, the mystery of the human person, and the mystery of the love we share.

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

Help us to work together in your kin-dom of justice and peace, until at last we stand in your presence to share the life of the saints, in the company of the Virgin Mary, our patron Mary of Magdala and all the apostles and saints, together with _____ (and all) our departed siblings whom we commend to your mercy.

Then, freed from all that would separate us, we shall take our place in the new creation and give you thanks through Christ, in whom our holiness is founded.

ALL: *(together on mute)* **Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father/Mother, for ever and ever. Amen.**



The Prayer of Jesus

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

(All to Join in on mute)

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 be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

The Shared Table - *Father Michael Nicosia*

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.

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

ALL; *(together on mute)* In this we are a Eucharistic People, the Body of Christ incarnate, the Blood of Christ poured out for the life of the world.

Sacred Music - *Bill Smith*

Prayer after the Meal

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Let us pray...

Father Michael Nicosia

Source and Ground of all relatedness, in the celebration of the Eucharist we enjoy communion with You and with each other. As living members of the Body of Christ, may our true nature be

revealed and celebrated, to the glory of your Name, now and always.

All: with Anne Amen.

Concluding Rite *Father Michael Nicosia*

The Lord is with you. **All: with Anne And also with you.**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

By dying to self, in the unrestricted abandon of our love, we affirm our inclusive welcome to all. Through your selfless service of God and neighbor may you bear a rich harvest. **All: with Anne Amen.**

May almighty God bless you and keep you, ✕ whole and holy, and bring you to everlasting life. **All: with Anne Amen.**



Dismissal *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

The mass is ended, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.

ALL: *with Anne* **Thanks be to God.**

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

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 Refrain)**

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)**

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