



Mary of Magdala, ECC— September 7, 2025

Celebrating the Season of Creation that began on September 1

The Kin-dom of God – All Creation Together Everywhere

Reverend Jane Reina Presiding

Welcome and Announcements - *Art Bavoso, lector*

Social Justice Reflection - *Tom Moos*

Entrance Song Mighty Creator (V1, R; V2, R)

Greeting: Welcome to our Mass on the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today is our first Sunday in the Season of Creation when the Christian world together honors our planet and all creation as alive with the Divine. This year's theme is "Peace with Creation." This is a world-wide Christian moment so some of the prayers are from around the world, and some of it is hard to say. We can honor each other by staying the course here today.

Living within the Divine Milieu, let us continue in priestly communal prayer as one expression of God's presence:

+In the name of the Creating Mystery, our Cosmic Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia.

All: Amen.



Penitential Rite ©2012 Rev. James Bhagwan, Fiji (modified for time)

source: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/oceania>

READING TO BE SHARED BY BOTH LECTORS

PRESIDER: All Creation is full of God's praise, and we are called to join in with joy, righteousness and peacefulness. Yet as we look around us, we see conflict and destruction.

We acknowledge:

READER 1: *Art Bavoso*

We ourselves cause conflict and destruction, and often fail to walk the path of peace.

Everywhere on the planet, humans cause great harm, even as we know that the scope of destruction varies, and that everywhere human beings are among the victims of our deep conflict with Creation.

All too often, we fail to live as we are called to live. We fail to be ambassadors of peace, righteousness and reconciliation. Let us humbly turn back to God, acknowledge our profound mistakes, be renewed by Grace.

READER 2 – *Ralph Dorland*

Creator God, God of the oceans, God of the land and all that is within it:

You created this world with the power of your word. You formed humankind with your own hands, and breathed your own breath into us.



You gave us these lands as a gift— a source of our identity and sustenance.

You empowered us to be the guardians of what you have made.

READER 1 *Art Bavoso*

Loving God, we turn to you with heavy hearts as we have failed to honor life in its many forms and have laid waist the gifts you have given us.

We have been greedy and arrogant. We have poisoned the Earth and the Oceans, the Creatures and the Sky.

READER 2 *Ralph Dorland*

Hear, O God of Compassion: The cries of the land—now a desert.

The cries of the islands—drowning in rising seas.

The cries of distress from Mother Earth— storm and drought.

READER 1 *Art Bavoso*

God of Life, heal your wounded Earth. Empower us to choose the road that leads to life.

Guide us in the paths of righteousness, for your name's sake,

so that we may experience once again your Shalom in the land and in the sea.

This we ask in the name of the one who came that we may have life in abundance—
your Jesus the Christ.

PRESIDER Source of our deepest compassion, we are a community of pilgrims
stumbling along your Way. Let us rejoice and trust in our calling, live as we are called to



live, reconciled with our Creator, the Body of Christ filled with the Holy Spirit. God of life, in thanksgiving for endless Love, we lift our voices in praise and glory of God!

Glory to God *(Mass of Renewal)*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray with John the Evangelist: (John 1:1-5)

“In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning.

Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being.

In the Word was life, and that life was humanity’s light — a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken. **All: Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated as the Word of God speaks to us.

First Reading *Reconciliation, A Prayer*, by Joy Harjo, from **The Woman Who Fell from the Sky**.

Art Bavoso, lector

A reading from *Reconciliation, A Prayer*, by Joy Harjo, from **The Woman Who Fell from the Sky**.

1. We gather at the shore of all knowledge as people who were put here by a god who wanted relatives.

This god was lonely for touch, and imagined herself as a woman, with children to suckle, to sing with – to continue the web of the terrifyingly beautiful cosmos of her womb.



This god became a father who wished for others to walk beside him in the belly of creation.

This god laughed and cried with us as a sister at the sweet tragedy of our predicament – foolish humans.

Or built a fire, as our brother to keep us warm.

This god who grew to love us became our lover, sharing tables of food enough for everyone in this whole world.

2. Oh, sun, moon, stars, and other relatives peering at us from the inside of god's house, walk with us as we climb into the next century [meaning this one] naked but for the stories we have of each other. Keep us from giving up in this land of nightmares which is also the land of miracles.

Words Inspired by God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 148, from **Psalms for Praying, An Invitation to Wholeness** by Nan Merrill

Art Bavoso, lector Our response is: All you peoples clap your hands! (all clap)

All: All you peoples clap your hands! (all clap)

Praise the Blessed One!

Give praise from the heavens,

And from all the ends of

The earth!

Give praise all you angels, angels of earth and of heaven!

Give praise sun and moon,

give praise, all you shining stars!

Give praise, all universes,

the whole cosmos of Creation!

All: All you peoples clap your hands (all clap)



Praise the Blessed One!
for through Love all was created
And firmly fixed for ever and ever;
Yes, the pattern of creation
was established.

Give praise to the Beloved,
all the earth,
all that swim in the deep,
And all the winged ones in the air!
All: All you peoples clap your hands (all clap)

Give praise all mountains and hills,
all trees and all minerals!
Give praise for all four-legged
and all that creep on the ground!

Leaders of the nations and all peoples,
young and old,
Give praise! Unite together in all your diversity,
that peace and harmony might
flourish on earth!
All: All you peoples clap your hands (all clap)

Let all peoples praise the Beloved,
who is exalted I heaven and
on earth;
whose glory is above heaven
and earth.

For all are called to be friends,
companions to the true Friend,
giving their lives joyfully as
co-creators and people of peace!
Praises be to the Blessed One,
the very Breath of our breath,



the very Heart of our heart!

All: All you peoples clap your hands (all clap)

Second Reading **Creation as The Story of God** by Joachim Viens, Friend,
Theologian, Monk *Lector Ralph Dorland*

I use the word “God” for want of a better word.
“God” is a code name for God (from Paul Tillich)
What I mean by God is the Holy Mystery within which we live,
more unknown than known, and at the same time,
I experience all of creation as God’s Body.

I start with experiences of spirit,
What is it that urges us forward and outward?
The love of God is poured out into our hearts,
by the spirit which has been given to us.

I move on to what God would look like if God
walked this earth—I find the life of Jesus
revelatory in this sense,
Jesus, the human face of God.
 A human face of God, A classic for you, perhaps,
 The classic for me!

And, finally I acknowledge God as the ultimate mystery,
The whither of my unrestricted desire to know and love,
but also, as that which urges me forward.

I experience the Holy Mystery as immanent, incarnate and transcendent,
a Trinitarian Mystery.

Listen to the Spirit speaking to God’s people. **All: Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation Alleluia (MOR)

Gospel *Mary of Magdala, Chapter 4, msp 7*

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

A proclamation of the Holy Gospel attributed to Mary of Magdala, Chapter 4, msp 7

All: Glory to you, O God!

After the Resurrection, one of the disciples asked, “. . . Will matter then be destroyed or not?”

Mary answers,

22) The Savior said, All nature, all formations, all creatures exist in and with one another, and they will be resolved again into their own roots.

23) For the nature of matter is resolved into the roots of its own nature alone.

24) He who has ears to hear, let him hear...”

The Good News of Jesus our Christ.

All: Praise to you, Jesus our Christ.

Homily Linda Joyce, Member MoM, Emeritus Research Ecologist, Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Research Station, member of the Joint Ecological Team at 301 Faith
Partners

Prayers of the People – From Hungary Source: Oratio Oecumenica; Zsuzsa Koltai, Ecumenical Working Group for Season of Creation, Hungary. Translation: Season of Creation.
(Adapted.)



Presider: You, Compassionate One, who are here, you know our needs even before we know them. *Ralph Dorland, Lector*

Our response to the prayers of creation is:

O God, we pray for peace within creation and within ourselves.

All: O God, we pray for renewed peace within creation and within ourselves.

1. O God, we pray for your created world. You created the universe and all that lives and exists in it. Out of your love, you created human beings; give us the strength to faithfully till and keep your created world according to your will.

All: O God, we pray for renewed peace within creation and within ourselves.

2. We pray for humanity, for every community, and every person in it. Grant that we may treat our fellow human beings with respect: that we may accept all in their diversity, that we may support and uphold the human dignity of our neighbors. Give us a grateful heart, that we may see ourselves as part of the great and rich whole of which you have created humanity.

All: O God, we pray for renewed peace within creation and within ourselves.

3. We pray for your world-wide Churches, that she may be a messenger of life and an agent of your love throughout the world. Instill courage in the hearts of those who follow you, that we may dare to proclaim hope to those who live in fear, encouragement to those who doubt, comfort to those who despair. Give your Church the strength of unity to proclaim your Gospel in word and deed as part of the world in crisis.

All: O God, we pray for renewed peace within creation and within ourselves.



4. We pray for the sick, the destitute, the oppressed and the vulnerable. Humble our hearts to relate to our fellow creatures in distress as true siblings. Give us the courage to act on behalf of those who silently endure injustice and guide our steps in the way of righteous and long-lasting peace.

All: O God, we pray for renewed peace within creation and within ourselves.

Rev. Jane

Gracious God, grant that the future of our planet, the future of us humans, and the future of all evolving creation be held in both your hands and ours as co-creating stewards so we may live in true hope, justice, and peace. **All: Amen.**

(No Creed)

The Peace

Jesus said to his disciples, “Peace be with you. My peace I give you.” May the peace of Christ, not of this world, be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please turn and share a sign of peace with our siblings here virtually and then turn to share with one another.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

As we prepare our tables with the food we have, here and at home, 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.

Let us sing together.

Offertory Song Colors of the Wind (V1, V2, R; V3, V4, R)



Procession of the Bread and Wine by Eucharistic Ministers

Preparation of the Gifts (*During Offertory Song*) Blessed are you, God of all

Creation, through your goodness we have this bread and wine. All creation originated as star dust and star dust has evolved into wheat and grapes from the soil of the earth. We, too evolving from stardust, have made bread and wine. May this bread and wine become for us the sacred nourishment we seek. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

By the mystery of this water and wine, we share in the divinity of Christ who emptied himself sharing in our humanity. **All: Blessed be God forever.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my siblings, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God.

All: May God accept the sacrifice at our hands, for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's Creation.

Christ is within You.

All: And also within You.

Let us open our hearts.

All: We open our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to our Loving God. **All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Amma/Abba God, source and destiny of all life, we praise you and thank you through Jesus our Christ. Following the example of Jesus, we live into the Kin-dom of God now.



Compassion for all creation opens our hearts to transformation. Therefore, we never cease to thank and praise you. Joining with the choirs of the cosmos we sing to your glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*MOR*)

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, compassionate and faithful God. With loving tenderness, you fill us with a longing for your justice and peace. Jesus the Christ is the Way that leads to Peace, the Way that liberates us from injustice and violence, and shows us how to love. PAUSE
Flowing from this Exquisite Love visible and invisible throughout the entire cosmos, send your Holy Spirit to heal our planet. You are invited to stretch out your hand over these gifts with **name of Eucharistic ministers** ____, and ____, and me:

O Mysterious Holiness, make these gifts of bread and wine ++holy, that they may become the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ.

While he was at supper on the night before he died, 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.

At the end of the meal, he took the cup. Again, he praised you for your goodness, gave 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.

Memorial Acclamation *(MOR)*

Loving God, with gratitude we remember the passion of Jesus, his suffering at the hands of a broken humanity filled with violence and enmity. He endured all this with a Love so deep and free that he died loving his enemies and forgiving his persecutors.

Together then with people of every faith and no faith, we remember that LOVE is our salvation, not our possession.

Remember, O Christ, those who have died and welcome them back into your Love, where you gather all into yourself. Comfort those who are in grief and mourning from loss. With all creation, we proclaim,

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 *(MOR)*

The Prayer of Jesus Please turn to the camera and let us join our hearts together as we pray the words that Jesus gave us...



All: (see screen) Abba/Amma, God in heaven,...the glory are Yours, now and forever.

The Shared Table – Meditation song while bread is broken (Lamb of God) This is the Living God. This is the one who transforms us and our world. Blessed are we who are called into this Love.

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

Invitation to Communion As we rejoice in our coming together in this transforming energy, let us affirm:

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.

However we share this meal, here or at home, or in a café, all tables are God's table. All are invited, no preconditions required, so come to this feast of unrestricted and unconditional Love. *(remind about gluten-free)*

Communion Song What a Wonderful Life (V1, V2, Bridge, V3)

Prayer after Communion – Argentina and Uruguay (modified)

Let us pray... Thanksgiving United Evangelical Lutheran Church, Argentina and Uruguay.

Presider: God of life, thank You for all the wonderful, great and immense creatures that You created.



All: We thank You that we have the opportunity to inhabit and enjoy the wonders of this world.

Presider: Thank you for giving us forests that provide our air and give us the shade we need on hot days.

All: Thank you for giving us the sun that shines brightly with its energy, as well as the rains to refresh and nourish the earth bringing a special scent.

Presider: Thank you for giving us the fertile soil to provide us with food and sustenance for many animals.

All: Allow us to recognize that the community of the earth is a democracy of life as a whole that is based on the living economies that are the local economies of those who work the land.

Presider: Give us the strength to defend diversity in nature and in the culture of each place by putting the common good first, knowing that all beings have a natural right to their sustenance.

All: Help us to value each species, people and culture, knowing that each has intrinsic value.

Presider: Help us to walk in this world with faith and hope. Sustain us to protect and care for your creation, respectful of the resources it provides for us and aware of the finiteness of Creation.

All: Give us the courage to fight for life and be resilient in the face of those who destroy Creation and those who profit from it for their own business.

Presider: Thank you, O God, for each of our lives which we give to you, through Jesus the Christ. **All: Amen.**

Concluding Rite and Dismissal



The peace of our God is within you. **All: And also within you.**

Let us open our hearts and receive God's blessing...

May the All-Compassionate God bless you to abide by your own conscience as responsible co-creators and stewards of our Earth. In the name of Amma/Abba God, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Sophia. **All: Amen.**

Dismissal -- Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church. Anaphora of Saint James, Brother of the Lord.

May we go living in peace with Creation.

And may the blessing of the Most Holy Trinity accompany you: [Creator, Christ], and Holy Spirit, the one God, to whom be glory, forever.

All: Amen

Dismissal Song Mighty Creator (V1, R; V2, R)