



## Mary of Magdala, ECC Sunday Service – Dec 6, 2020

### Celebrating the Second Sunday of Advent

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

**Announcements** – Lector Lynne Barnes

**Black Lives Matter** – Tom Moos Co-Chair Social Justice Ministry

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

#### The Summons

1. Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in  
me?

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**Greeting** - *Father Teri*

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

May the Love of God, the peace of our brother  
Jesus, and the communion and friendship of the  
Holy Spirit be with you all  
**ALL: And also with you**

**Penitential Rite** – *Father Teri*

God, you create the world in love and through  
love. Lord have mercy **ALL: Lord have mercy.**

Christ, you are born to make visible the Divine in  
our midst. Christ have mercy.  
**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of God, you continue to breathe renewal

and love throughout the world. Lord have mercy.  
**ALL: Lord have mercy.**

May our loving God, have mercy on us, forgive our  
sin, and bring us all to everlasting love and life..  
**All: Amen**

**Gloria** –

*Deacon Rosean:*

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



*(All to Join in on mute)*

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's People on earth. Father/Mother God, heavenly Sovereign, Almighty and Self-emptying, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father/Mother, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy**

**on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Majesty, receive our prayer.**

**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 our Father/Mother God. Amen**

## Opening Prayer - *Father Teri*

Let us pray...

God, Emmanuel, we wait in joyful hope to celebrate your new presence among us. Let us prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus by remembering all of the children who are born to us somewhere in the world every day deserving a

world of peace. We go to the streets now to be bearers of that peace, working for justice and flourishing for all. May you light our way, O God. We ask this in Jesus' name, **ALL: Amen**

## Liturgy of the Word

### 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. All rights reserved. Administered at CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used with permission.

### First Reading is from 'A Way in the Wilderness' by Jan Richardson – *Lector Lynne Barnes*

John appears in the gospels as a wildly liminal figure, a character who lives and works in a threshold space. He dwells in the wilderness; hangs out by a river; offers the ritual of baptism, and devotes himself to preparing a way for the one who is to come.

These actions and images by which the gospel writers describe John all speak to his status as one who inhabits liminal space—an in-between place—and whose purpose is not only to make a

path for Christ but also to help others cross into a deeper relationship with God.

What intrigues me about the threshold nature of John the Baptizer is the way in which the past, present, and future come together within him. Grounded in the words of the prophet who spoke in centuries past about one who would prepare the way, John turns his face toward the future, and he flings himself into the present and the work that is at hand.



He holds past, present, and future in dramatic and creative tension, not becoming overly attached to any one of these realms. Open to the ways that the God of the ages is at work, John is able to recognize Christ when he comes, when he reveals himself in the fullness of time.

These Advent days can be disorienting in the ways that they call us not only to remember the past but also to anticipate the future and attend to the present. Yet this is the work of the threshold, and Advent is a threshold season, a liminal place in the calendar, an in-between time of preparation and

expectation. Thresholds offer a heady mix of possibility and peril. They are wildly unpredictable, they stir up questions, they call us to live with uncertainty, they compel us to develop skills at attending to the present even as we discern the future. Ultimately, they are places of initiation, taking us deeper into God and into the person God has created us to be.

Words inspired by God

**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: Mark 1:1-8** - *Deacon Rosean*

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ the Son of God.  
As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.  
A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”  
John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.  
People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him

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

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River  
as they acknowledged their sins.  
John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist.  
He fed on locusts and wild honey.  
And this is what he proclaimed:  
“One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”  
The Good News.  
**ALL: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ**

**Homily** – *Father Teri*

**Magnificat for a Dreamer** – *Lector Pedro Engel*  
by Ann Johnson from *Miryam of Nazareth*.



My soul is grateful for your tender caring  
and my spirit rejoices in you, God, my provider,  
because you have given an enabling dream  
to a person that I love.  
Yes, now we both know the blessedness  
of our life together,  
for the Almighty has shown us clearly  
the rightness of the path ahead.  
Holy is the name of the One who speaks in dreams:  
Clarifying visions reach from age to age  
into the sleep of the people who seek to know  
their own way.  
God has shown the freeing power of an inner answer  
to one who asks in genuine yearning,  
“What shall I do in this moment, Faithful Teacher?”  
God leaves unanswered those who twist and construe  
each jot and tittle of the law to insure their  
future.  
God has brushed aside the authoritative hand  
of those who would lay upon our heads

their narrowness,  
and touched with a revealing kiss  
the sleeping brow of my beloved.  
The searching ones have been filled with holy  
knowing,  
others will lift their eyebrows  
in idle speculation at the firmness of our step.  
God has come in vivid imagery  
to the help of my companion and my self,  
remembering God is dreamer,  
according to the dreams our Creator dreamed in  
the beginning  
that there would be a people who loved enough  
to follow the beckoning heart of the Lonely  
One . . .  
remembering God is a dreamer  
who never leaves us to walk the pathway alone.  
Words inspired by God.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God**

## Prayers of the People – *Father Teri will open the Prayers of the People*

*Lector Pedro Engel*

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.

*(Pedro 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.**

*Father Teri will close the prayers*

**ALL: Amen**

## Sign of Peace - *Deacon Rosean*

Christ Jesus, you said to your apostles: I leave you  
peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our  
failings and doubts, but on the faith of your

Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your  
kin-dom where you live for ever and ever  
**All: Amen**



The Peace of the Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you**

*Deacon Rosean*

Let us all go to “gallery view” and please unmute yourself by holding down your space bar so all can hear you offering a sign of Christ’s peace.

**Sacred Music** *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

**The King Shall Come**

The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.  
Not, as of old, a little child,  
To bear, and fight, and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.

2. O brighter than the rising morn  
When he, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death,

Despite the rage of foes.  
O brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall this fair morning be,  
When Christ, our King, in beauty comes,  
And we his face shall see!

3. The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ, the Lord! Thy people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings.  
Come quickly, King of kings.

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**Regional Prayer for Calling a Bishop -** *Deacon Rosean*

*(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**

**Our Celebration of Food -** *Father Teri*

The Lord be with you  
Open your hearts  
Let us give thanks to our Loving God.

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

Let us welcome God and God’s creative spirit.  
God has called us to gather around these tables  
this evening, knowing that all tables are God’s  
table. I remind you of the theology of Ronald  
Rolheiser, a modern Catholic theologian who said,  
“The incarnation began with Jesus and it has  
never stopped . . . God takes on flesh so that every  
home becomes a church, every child becomes the  
Christ-child, and all food and drink become a  
sacrament. God’s many faces are now

everywhere, in flesh, tempered and turned down,  
so that our human eyes can see him.”

So... ..let our homes and our hearts be a dwelling  
place for God. May we see the Christ-child in one  
another, identifying us as kin together in God’s  
family. And may we trust that the food before us  
is sacrament. God is present to each of us, and  
God’s grace is abundant and in our midst.



In this season of Advent, may we be assured that God is with us in our isolation, and the Advent stories remind us that God in the past, in the present, and in the future transforms isolation to Incarnation.

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.

We give you thanks for the myriad of ways you show up in our lives as both Creator and Creation. We thank you for all that is, and for the Breath of Life that is You throughout the cosmos. We see You in one another, and throughout creation. We share your Breath with one another, with our ancestors, and with all those yet to be. Even in these new and challenging times, You are bringing to birth through us a new heaven joined with a new earth, and like the early followers of Jesus, we gather together as family and kin.

Holy Breath of God, the One who blesses us and calls us Beloved,  
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 the world.

Today we remember a story of your Eternal Son, Jesus, who on the night before he died gathered at a table with his family and friends. That night he took bread, he took wine, for they were the food and drink on the table before him. He blessed them and shared them with all those who were present. He told them that his love for them was boundless because your love for creation is boundless. Let us take the food before us, and let us be confident that you have blessed this food as well. May it be a blessing to our bodies, that our bodies may be a blessing to your world.

God of Kinship, You have made this food which feeds us. May we be open to the ways you connect to us in relationship and your holy dance with us. In Jesus' name we pray. **All: Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer - Father Teri

Let us open our hearts and our hands in prayer, knowing that in this prayer we both give to and receive from our God.

*(All to Join in on mute)*

**All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin(g)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(g)dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.**

## Reception for Spiritual Communion - Father Teri

Before we share in eating the food on our tables, I'd like to remind you that God invited you here today. Where-ever you are on your journey, God is with you.

Let us share together these words of celebration of God with the food God has provided:

*(All to Join in on mute)*

**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.**

*Father Teri:*



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

**Communion Song** – Instrumental – Rosanna Bateman on piano

**Prayer after Spiritual Communion** - Father Teri

Let us pray...

You come to us in our isolation, and transform that isolation into Incarnation through the grace of this meal. May we be your presence, the Body

of Christ, in the world today. Be born in us. Be born in our world. In Emmanuel's name we pray  
**ALL: Amen**

**Blessing** - Father Teri

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

May God bless us with the blessing of December. It is a blessing rooted in prayer that smells so good, like hot chocolate. It is a blessing that reminds us that self-care should involve all of the senses. It is a blessing with all the scents and all the flavors; a blessing that jingles like bells and

cherishes story telling. This is a blessing that moves us from isolation to Incarnation and into the streets with God. We ask for this blessing to be born in us now in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

We ask for this blessing now, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**All: Amen**

**Dismissal** – Deacon Rosean

Go in peace to wait, watch, and work in preparation for Christ among and within us.

**All: Thanks be to God**

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

**Emmanuel**

Refrain

Come, come, Emmanuel!  
Son of God, appear.  
Heaven and earth, rejoice!  
Salvation is drawing near.  
Salvation is drawing near.

3. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem;  
From ev'ry foe deliver them

That trust your mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

4. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of humankind;  
Make all our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us the King of Peace.

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