



Mary of Magdala, ECC July 25, 2021 - Feast of St. Mary of Magdala In Sanctuary and on Zoom

*Participants at home may wish to prepare their home worship space with a lit candle
and the food and drink to be remotely shared.*

Announcements *Lector David Cloyd*

BLM/Social Justice reflection *Tom Moos, Chair Social Justice Ministry*
(Pause to hold this message in our hearts.)

Entrance Song *(please join in singing)*

All Are Welcome

Verse1:

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 2:

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in
this place.

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Greeting

Welcome, and thank you for blessing us with
your presence as we worship this evening.

Today we celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron
Saint, Mary of Magdala.
In every generation women have and continue to
faithfully and generously respond to the call to
serve God and God's holy people. They have
been apostles and disciples; leaders of prayer,
readers and preachers; educators and
theologians; truth tellers, prophets, martyrs, and
reformers; pastoral ministers, chaplains,
comforters and counselors; altar servers,
sacristans, and breadbakers; mothers,
Godmothers, and caregivers; musicians, liturgists,
and artists--offering their gifts to the mission and
ministry of the Church.

Often, sharing from their own resources,
receiving neither recognition nor remuneration,
they are quietly "making church" happen. All too

often the dangerous memory of their ministry,
leadership, and witness is covered up, hidden, or
diminished.

Today, however, on this Celebration of the Feast
of Saint Mary of Magdala, we gather to let their
light shine. We celebrate and give thanks for the
women from our history, from our own families,
our community, and from around the world. And
we seek a Church that is truly enlightened and
alive with the God-given gifts of each member.

So let us gather in the name of God, our Creator,
Christ our Savior, and Sophia, the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN

May God, the Blessed Holy Three, be with you as
we work together for partnership, justice and
equality for women in Church and society!

ALL: And also with you.



Penitential Rite *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

Let us remember our God...
O God, may we open the eyes of our hearts, like
Mary of Magdala,
to the Risen Christ.
Creator God, have mercy.

ALL: CREATOR GOD, HAVE MERCY

Jesus the Christ, may we see the divine reality in
the person of a woman, especially in women who
are called to serve you.

Brother Jesus, have mercy.

ALL: Brother Jesus, have mercy.

Wisdom Sophia, may we, like Mary of Magdala,
proclaim the Good News with courage.
Wisdom Sophia, have mercy.

ALL: Wisdom Sophia, have mercy.

May the God of Love inspire in us the trust in
Your Spirit Sophia moving with us, in us, and
through us, leading to guidance, courage, healing
and empowerment.

In the name of Christ Sophia,

ALL: Amen

Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan
Let us center ourselves in pray

Opening Prayer

O God, whose Only Begotten Son entrusted Mary
of Magdala before all others with announcing the
great joy of the Resurrection, grant that through
her intercession and example, **we** may proclaim
the living Christ, among us and within us, and

come to see Him reigning in Your glory, who lives
and reigns with you in the unity of Sophia, the
Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

ALL: AMEN

Liturgical Assistant Anne Beavan
Let us sing our praises to our God.

Glory to God – *(please join in singing)*

Mass of the Joyful Heart

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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Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan

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

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading - An excerpt from *Jesus and Women*, by Elizabeth A. Johnson — Lector David Cloyd

For two thousand years almost all Christian theology has been done by men. After the Second Vatican Council opened the study of theology to laypersons in the Church, many women began to be educated in this field.

Theology in women's hands has discovered Jesus Christ as compassionate friend, liberator from burdens, consoling friend in sorrows, and ally of women's strivings. The blessing that women find in their relationship with Jesus is not simply private and spiritual, though it is certainly that. It affects their lives in public and social domains, inspiring the struggle for liberation from

structures of domination in every dimension of life.

In Christ's name, society and Church are called to conversion of hearts, minds, and structures so that the reign of God may take firmer hold in this world. This is a challenging view. But the liberating words have already been spoken: "Woman, you are set free from your ailment. Stand up."

Reflections about the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Adapted from a poem by Edwina Gately from *Soul Sisters*

— Lector David Cloyd

The Response is: St. Mary of Magdala, show us the way to love like Jesus

Response: St. Mary of Magdala, show us the way to love like Jesus

Ah, Mary of Magdala, they did not tell us your story. It was lost, buried deep in layers of fear and denial, that such a one as you—Female, fiercely loyal friend of Jesus—could walk so closely with the Son of God.

Response: St. Mary of Magdala, show us the way to love like Jesus.

Could it be Sister, that you feared the very intelligence that warned you to be mute lest your

woman voice break out in mighty scream, provoking rage and retaliation from the ones who made the rules?

Response: St. Mary of Magdala, show us the way to love like Jesus.

Ah, Mary, we need to claim your vision breaking through dead history into our warm lives. We need to weave you, Mary, into our lives that we might stir and rise, fluttering in the hope of new beginnings.

Response: St. Mary of Magdala, show us the way to love like Jesus.



The Second Reading - from *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene*, by Cynthia Bourgeault, and *The Truth*, by Macrina Wiederkehr - Lector Cindy Cloyd

Mary Magdalene is seen as "first among the apostles" not simply in a chronological sense (because she was the first on the scene at the resurrection) but in a more fundamental way: because she gets the message.

Of all the disciples, she is the only one who fully understands what Jesus is teaching and can reproduce it in her own life. Her position of leadership is earned, and it is specifically validated by Jesus himself.

The Truth

I will believe the truth about myself
no matter how beautiful it is:

I believe in my power
to transform indifference into love.

I believe I have an amazing gift
to keep hope alive in the face of despair.
I believe I have the remarkable skill
of deleting bitterness from my life.
I believe in my budding potential
to live with a nonviolent heart.
I believe in my passion to speak the truth
even when it isn't popular.
I believe I have the strength of will
to be peace in a world of violence.
I believe in my miraculous capacity
for unconditional love.

I will believe the truth about myself
no matter how beautiful it is.
—Macrina Wiederkehr

Words inspired by God.
All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation – *Mass of Mary Magdalene* (join in singing)

Refrain:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Verse 2:
Open our hearts O God

To listen to the words of your Son.

Refrain

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Music: *Mass of Mary Magdalene*; Sarah Hart, b. 1968; vocal arr by Rick Modlin,
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Gospel Reading – Gospel of Mary of Magdala

Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan

The Risen Christ be with you all.
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mary Magdalene

Jesus spoke, "Sisters and brothers, go then and preach the gospel of the kin-dom." When the Blessed One said this, he left. The students were grieved.

They wept profoundly, saying, "How can we go into the rest of the world proclaiming the Good News about the Son of Humanity's Realm?"

All: And also with you.
All: Glory to you, O God+

If they did not spare him, how will we be spared?" Then Mary of Magdala stood up, embraced them all, and said to her brothers and sisters, "Do not weep and do not grieve or be irresolute, for his grace will be fully with you and will sustain and protect you. Rather, let us praise his greatness. He has prepared us so that we might become fully human."



As Mary said these things, their hearts opened toward the Good, and they began to discuss the meaning of the Savior's words.

Peter said to Mary, "Sister, we know that the savior loved you more than other women.

Tell us the words of the savior that you remember, which you know and we do not. We have not heard them." Mary answered, saying, "What is hidden from you I will reveal to you."

The Good News of Salvation

All: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ

Homily *Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral*

Creed/Affirmation of Faith –

Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan

In love and in light, we profess our faith together

We believe in God who is creator and nurturer of all. We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who is our love, our hope, and our light. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of Wisdom Sophia, who energizes and guides us to build caring communities and to challenge oppression, exploitation, and injustices.

We believe that God loves us passionately and forgives us everything. We believe that we are radiant images of God who calls us to live fully, love tenderly, and serve generously.

We believe in the communion of saints, our heavenly friends, who support us on life's journey.

We believe in the partnership and equality of women and men in our church and world. We believe that all are one in the Heart of God. Here on this earth we are meant to dwell in loving relationships. Here we live our prophetic call of Gospel equality. Amen.

by Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Theresa Streck, ARCWP

Prayers of the People – In praise of women

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

Eternal God, you call us to be a reflection of your divine light. Today, in honor of Mary of Magdala, we name and celebrate the women who have shared that light throughout the ages. In hope, we also name and call forth women's light still waiting to shine.

Lector Cindy Cloyd

If you would like to honor the memory of a woman of faith or share a prayer for a woman of faith in our community or the world, if you hadn't placed in the basket, you can bring here to the lectern. If you are attending on Zoom, please type your prayer into the "Chat," and Kerrie will read it for you.

Our response is: Blessing and praise be yours!

All: Blessing and praise be yours

(Cindy to read the prayers submitted)

*(Kerrie to read those prayers that are written in Zoom's chat feature.)... we pray: **All: Blessing and praise be yours.***



We pray for the women of our community, that all of our gifts may be welcomed, received, and put to work for God's greatest good, we pray,

All: Blessing and praise be yours

And for those on our Prayer List and all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray. **All: Blessing and praise be yours..**

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

O God, we are grateful for the women who have gone before us who lived lives of service and faithfulness, and we are grateful for those who share their talents and love with our community and all your people today. We pray that, with your help, we may, in the words of Amanda

Gorman, "... step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it." **All: Amen**

Sign of Peace

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

Celebrating God's faithfulness, may the peace of Christ be with you always. **ALL: And also with you.**

Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan

For those on Zoom, unmute and go to gallery view, that all might share with one another a sign of Christ's peace. For those in the sanctuary, please offer a gesture for a sign of peace.

Offertory Song *(please join in singing)*

The Eyes and Hands of Christ

Refrain

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
love will be found, life will abound.
By name we are called, from water we are sent:
to become the eyes and hands of Christ.

1. One we become, no longer strangers.
No longer empty or frail.
Filled with the Spirit, ev'ry hunger satisfied.
Christ is the center of our lives.

2. One in the Spirit, one in the Lord.
One in the breaking of the bread.
Life-giving witness of our dying and new life,
held by the promise in our hands.

3. Not what we are, but what we become.
Not what we say, but what we do.
Living the challenge as the bearers of light.
We are the eyes and hands of Christ.

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Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of our Tables

Liturgical Assistant Anne Beavan

As we prepare our tables, offering food and drink here and in our homes, 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. The offertory basket is here in front of the altar for any offering you may have.



Eucharistic Prayer

Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral

God dwells in you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to our God.

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

O loving God, O Blessed Holy Three, who brings to birth the world of our dreams for mutual respect and partnership, we do well always and everywhere to give you praise. Give us courage to act justly and work collaboratively to change systems that keep people poor and marginalized in our society. We thank you for the women and men who are working for justice and equality in our church and in our world.

You are Holy indeed, O Mothering God. You are the Heart of Love. You affirm women's bodies as holy and women's stories as sacred.

We give thanks that we live in your Enfolding Presence and serve you with grateful hearts.

Have mercy on us all and make us one with Mary, Mother of Jesus, our sister and champion of the oppressed, and the apostles, especially Mary of Magdala, and all the holy women and men who have done your will throughout the ages. May their courage inspire us to confront patriarchal systems that discriminate against women.

Liberating God, may we be free at last from all bondage and injustice and give you glory through Jesus the Christ.

ALL: AMEN

All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever. Amen

The Prayer of Jesus

Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan

Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

All: Abba/Amma in heaven, Holy be Your name. Your kin-dom come, Your will be done, on earth as 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

The Shared Table - *Co-Pastor Dcn Rosean Amaral*

Lamb of God - *Mass of St. Mary Magdalene*
(Please join in singing)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy, Mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us, grant us peace.

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Mass of St. Mary Magdalene
Sarah Hart..

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are we who are called to this supper.

All: Jesus, our Christ, I am worthy to receive you, because by your Word I am healed.



This bread, blessed as you blessed it God, by your disciple and our Co- Pastor Reverend Jane, has become for us both your body and your life's blood, which we offer to all in celebration of your generous living presence.

The Good News is that Jesus the Christ is the host at this table, and all are welcome without exception to this Eucharistic Feast.

I will be holding the gluten free hosts for anyone who needs them

Communion Song –(please join in singing)

Christ, Be Our Light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

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Prayer after Communion

Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan
Let us pray...

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral
God of love and compassion, just as you called Mary of Magdala, you also call us to go forth and to tell the Good News. Your light within us enables us to claim our own strength, and to take risks in the service of your people, confident of your grace. Continue to root us more deeply in

your love that any light and life that results from our efforts might be a reflection of Your light and love.

We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus who lives with you-- and in us all-- in the unity of the Holy Spirit Sophia, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen



Blessing

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

May God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan

Let us bow our heads and receive God's blessing.

Co-Pastor Dcn. Rosean Amaral

May the fire of the Holy One's love warm our hearts. May we live justice and equality in our

church and world. And may the love of Christ fill us and radiate through us forever.

In the name of Amma/Abba God, Jesus, our Brother, and Holy Spirit Sophia.

ALL: AMEN

Dismissal

Liturgical Assistant – Anne Beavan

May Saint Mary of Magdala be our model of courage and faithful service. By her example may we delight in the presence of Jesus and shout with joy, "I have seen the Christ!" Go in peace to serve God and God's people. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song - (please join in singing)

I Will Choose Christ

Refrain

I will choose Christ,

I will choose love,

I choose to serve.

I give my heart, I give my life,

I give my all to you.

1. How many times
must he call my name
and show to me that he is God?
And as a servant he calls to me,
"You must serve too."

2. Christ, my teacher and healer,
teach my heart and heal my soul.
And as I walk this road with you,
teach me to love.

3. As I look upon your cross,
so too must I die with you.
And with the death of my
own desires,
I'll rise with you.

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***** Liturgy adapted from Women's Ordination Conference and Future Church liturgies for Mary of Magdala's Feast Day, July 22, 2021.*****