

**Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community
15th Anniversary Year - 2005-2020**



**13th Sunday in the Orderly Course of Time
International Pride Weekend – 51st Anniversary of Stonewall
June 28, 2020**

Introduction & Welcome

Welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, on the land that the Kumeyaay people have tended for generations. Today we gather from locations all around the world. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are. We are glad you are joining us.

For the best worship experience for all, we ask that those of you joining us remain muted unless you are offering a prayer intention. At the time of the prayers of the faithful, you may either unmute yourself and speak your prayer intention aloud or type your prayer intention in the chat. Despite being muted, we encourage you to sing along at home. You may wish to have bread and wine (or something similar) with you to share in our spiritual communion. After our liturgy concludes, we will have a brief break before gathering for some social time. All are welcome to join us for that time.

Today we join with LGBTQIA+ communities around the world in celebrating international pride weekend and mark the 50th anniversary of the first pride march and the 51st anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. In honor of this, we are thrilled to have the Rev. Alex Patchin McNeill, Executive Director of More Light Presbyterians as our guest homilist today.

I invite you now to take a breath and center yourselves in the presence of God before we begin our opening song.

Opening Song – For All the Children

Lohman

God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,
and we dare to claim the promise of Your love,
though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be,
when your children will be free.

***O, may our hearts and minds be open,
fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.***

Oh, we sing for all the children that one day they be free;
and we sing for generations yet to be,
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest.
May they, in Your love, find rest. **R**

Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame
so afraid of who they are and whom they love.
May the message now be banished that Your love is for the few,
may their faith in You renew. **R**

God, we're working for the future when children far and wide
can live their lives with dignity and pride.
As they grow in strength and stature,
may they join us hand in hand, as against all hate we stand. **R**

Opening Rite

We begin our liturgy by blessing the name of our God with the sign of our faith:
+ In the name of our one God: Speaker, Word, and Breath. **Amen.**

May the grace of Jesus the Christ, the love of God, and the fire of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Knowing God's Loving Kindness

We pause to remember those times when we have not lived out our call as Christians:

Source of all being, we often fail to share our resources with others in need.
God, forgive us. Empower us to live the Gospel.

Jesus the Christ, we often allow discrimination against others.
God, forgive us. Empower us to live the Gospel.

Empowering Spirit, we often tolerate leaders who promote division and injustice.

God, forgive us. Empower us to live the Gospel.

May God, who is Justice, Compassion, and Peace, forgive our failure to live the Gospel in our world, and strengthen us to serve others with compassion and hope. **Amen.**

Opening Prayerⁱ

God of love, we thank you for the Spirits who were trailblazers, moving and shaking people's hearts and minds. Stir up in us that same energy of those who helped pave the way for where our LGBTQIA+ siblings are today. May we never stop expanding the borders of love and acceptance for queer, brown, and black bodies. In your name, we pray... **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 28:5-9

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the temple, the house of God. And the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May God do so; may God fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the God, and all the exiles.

"But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the God has truly sent the prophet."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 13:1-6

Our psalm response is:

How long, O God, will you forget me?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long, O God? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy triumph over me? **R.**

Look upon me and answer me, my God;
give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death;
and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed,"
and my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. **R.**

But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice because of your help.
I will sing to our God, for he has dealt bountifully with me.
I will praise the name of our God. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 8:35-39

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans:

Who will separate us from the love of the Christ? Will hardship, or distress, persecution or famine, nakedness, peril or violence? As it is written:

*“For your sake, we are being put to death all day long,
We have been treated like sheep for slaughter.”*

In all these sufferings, we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. I am convinced that neither death nor life, angels nor rulers, things present nor things to come, powers nor height, nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will separate us from the love of God known to us in Jesus, the Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of a Joyful Heart - Angrisano

Refrain: All

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia. lu - ia!

Our God is with you. ***And also with you.***

A reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew. ***Glory to You, O God.***

Jesus said to them, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

The Gospel of God.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Rev. Alex Patchin McNeill is the Executive Director of More Light Presbyterians. During his tenure at More Light, he has equipped congregations to live into policy change for inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people and has successfully enacted policies for marriage equality in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Alex is the first openly transgender man ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.). He lives in Asheville, NC with his spouse and their three dogs.



Profession of Faith: Litany of Hope and Struggle *adapted from Carol Wiseⁱⁱ*

Because injustice can break the most eager spirit and force the abandonment of dreams...

We hold tenderly all our siblings and grieve the loss of vibrancy and faith.

Because fear can overwhelm goodness and silence those whom God has called...

We decry the betrayal of God's own and announce our resolve to speak the truth of our lives.

Because hate destroys the human heart and limits the wonders of love...

We open ourselves to compassion and offer our lives as witnesses to the healing presence of God.

Because complacency gives consent to systems that oppress and harm...

We refuse to cede our world to hurtful power and principalities and dare to dream new creations into being.

Because courage in the face of fear and injustice is a holy deed...

We celebrate the passion that chooses life in the midst of violence and claims the goodness of human dignity with power and grace.

Because hope in a world of complacency and hate is a sacred act of resistance...

We stand among this incredible cloud of witnesses and proclaim:

Where hatred roars, we will sing of love.

Where fear stalks, we will stand with courage.

Where bigotry rages, we will call for justice.

Where pain overwhelms, we will extend kind comfort.

Where systems oppress, we will work for change.

Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore. Amen.

Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

“How long shall my enemy triumph over me?” “How long must I bear pain in my soul?” In the face of all the violence, division, and exclusion in our world, let us renew our trust in the eternal Holy One.

Our response: How long, Holy One? Do not forget us forever.

That with Jeremiah and Hananiah, we work to hasten the day when the prophecy of peace is fulfilled ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

That, like Paul, we remain convinced that neither rulers nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation will separate us from the love of God ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

We see all creation ablaze with Divinity; we encounter the Risen One among us; we feel the living Fire within ... and we pray ... ***(Response)***

In thanksgiving for the immensity and grandeur of the Cosmos, and for the warm greenness of the planetary home that sustains us and all Earthly life ... we pray ... ***(Response)***

For those who welcome and embrace us in all our human diversity, and for the times we have failed to be welcoming and inclusive toward all members of our human family ... we pray as Jesus said we should ... ***(Response)***

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Spirit-led community of Alleluia and sorrow, remembering as well the universal needs of all people, especially those who have been touched by the pandemic.

All those who wish to share a prayer, please unmute your microphone and speak your prayer briefly and clearly.

Let us now take a moment to remember all the prayers and intentions here today that have remained unspoken, deep in the silence of our hearts . . .

For these intentions and for all the prayers written in today's chat box and in our community prayer book . . . we pray ... **(Response)**

Closing Prayer of the Faithful:ⁱⁱⁱ

Oh God, guide our steps. Transform our hands, our hearts, our tongues in the ways of justice and peace. Let not a word slip from our lips that would denigrate any of your beloved children. Kindle in us anger at structures and systems that hold your people down. Make us bold to commit our whole lives to the liberation and healing of all. Reconcile us to one another, and to You. Heal us, O Great Physician, from the racism of our systems and structures. Banish the viruses that seek to destroy. Equip us for the work that must be done. Strengthen us for the days ahead. Jesus, guard and guide us. Do not let us go until we are done. We pray... **Amen.**

Offertory Song – Will the Circle Be Unbroken?
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<i>Alonso</i>

Will the circle be unbroken? Will the pow'r of death prevail?
Will the voices seeking justice be rejected and grow frail?
Will revenge replace forgiveness?
Will our pride replace God's peace?
Will the innocents be victims, and the violence increase?

Will the words our God has spoken be revised or be ignored?
Will the love that made and formed us be rejected for the sword?
Will the God who cries "Forgiveness is the only way to peace"
Be blocked out by cries of anger? Will the fighting ever cease?

Here the body blessed and broken, and the blood of Christ outpoured
is the only food of freedom for the servants of our God.
Here the stories shared at table, call us all to peaceful ways
Show us Christ in all creation, show us love's the only way.

Our Eucharist

Blessed are You, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are You, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God forever.

Friends, pray that this bread of life and spiritual drink will deepen our commitment to live the Gospel.

Loving God, strengthen us to witness Your inclusive love.

Prayer with our Gifts

Holy One, come upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may strengthen us to bear the bread, carry the cup, and lay the table for a hungry world. We pray in Jesus' name... ***Amen.***

Eucharistic Prayer^{iv}

God dwells in you.

And also in you.

Let us give thanks to the life-giving Spirit of God.

With hearts burning with love, we give God thanks and praise.

God of All, You bless us with abundance and know our every need. You call us to work for justice, to share our table with all creation, to feed the needy at our door, to see nobody left in need. For the blessing of Your gifts, and the challenge of Your call to us, we join with prophets and saints and all your people throughout the ages as we sing:

Sanctus

Angrisano

Holy, Holy, Holy, O God of Life

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are all who come in the name of our God, in the name of our God.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are You, O God of all, who calls us to gather at tables of love and liberation, to be nourished by a taste of what You desire to do among us. Though separated by distance, still we gather Your name as You call us from institutional halls of power, from shelters and the streets; from classrooms and pulpits, from gay bars and prison cells. You call us to be in solidarity with Christ, who lives and loves on the margins, and to align ourselves with the causes of those who are marginalized, oppressed, outcast, and isolated.

In your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News: calling for captives to be set free, the lowly to be lifted up, the redistribution of wealth and the eradication of injustice and oppression. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds - not even the bounds of death.

[Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.]

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. May this bread and wine become for us the body and blood of Jesus, awakening us anew in our pursuit of a world where everyone can flourish and lead lives full of justice, love, and truth. We remember that...

All: ...on the night before Jesus died, while at supper with his friends, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying: "Take this, all of you and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me."

[Pause]

After the meal, Jesus took the cup filled with wine, said the blessing, gave the cup to his friends and said: "Take this, all of you and drink. This is my blood, the cup of the new and ever-lasting covenant. Do this in memory of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

[spoken]

Christ was birthed among us.

Christ was killed among us.

Christ rises again among us.

We celebrate the memory of Jesus' death and resurrection. We embrace the possibility of reconciliation, justice and peace. Take away all that divides us. Open our hearts to be loving and affirming of people of all genders and sexualities. Keep us in communion with one another and with all people throughout the world. Through Your Spirit make us a sign of unity, a model of equality and justice, and instruments of Your peace.

Let Your Spirit also come upon all leaders, secular and religious. Catch all of them by surprise. Fill their hearts with a longing for equality and justice. Imbue them with the joy of divine diversity. Bestow on them the wealth of humble service to others. Make them faithful servants of the body of Christ.

Be with those who are sick and those who suffer, especially in this time of pandemic. Be with all who have died and gone before us into the fullness of union with You. Be with us in our struggling attempts live out your example of love.

Sanctify us through Your Spirit, that we may be nurtured to labor with patience for the coming of Your justice, living each day in love toward friend and stranger. With the help of Jesus, strengthen us to live lives that bring You honor and glory:

In the name of God, Source of Life,

In the name of Jesus, Source of Hope,

In the name of the Spirit, Source of Blessing,

We offer our prayer of praise, this day and forever.

[sung]

Mass of a Joyful Heart – Angrisano

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

Prayer of Jesus^v	<i>Kosits</i>
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Throughout the centuries, the prayer of Jesus, often known as the “Our Father,” has been translated and rendered in many different ways. At this time, we invite you to join us in praying in the language and words most comfortable to you. We offer this sung contemporary version:

***Loving God in whom is heaven;
May your name be honored everywhere.
May your kin-dom come, may your hearts desire
Be done in us, by us, and through us.
Give us the bread we need for each day;
Forgive us, enable us to forgive others.
And keep us from all anxiety and fear
For you reign in the pow’r of love which is your glory
Forever and ever amen.***

Sign of Peace

May the peace of the Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***
Let us offer one another – and the whole world – God’s peace.

Lamb of God	Angrisano
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***Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Hope. O, Lamb of God.
Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Love. O, Lamb of God.
Lamb of God, you call us to the gospel of Peace. Grant us peace.***

We are God’s body, made one in the Spirit.
We are blessed to share in this communion.

We believe that Christ is present with us whenever and wherever we are. So, the table you are using right now is no longer your table alone. It is part of Christ’s table, and you are part of Christ’s church. May all who share with us in this spiritual communion be united with us in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. ***Amen.***

Communion Song: *Church of Justice* Canedo, Feduccia, Jansen, Kroger, Miles, Walther, Walton

Refrain:

***Church of justice, church of mercy
Church of welcome, open wide
Church for service, with your people
Love of stranger, love divine***

You breathed your Word and created.
You speak and now all things sustain.
As rain and snow pour down with purpose,
your promised justice, God fulfill. **R.**

Our lives united in Communion
Your table set before our eyes.
Our hearts are lavished with your kindness
Your promised banquet, God fulfill **R.**

Send us forth!
Our lives, the gift we're giving.
Send us forth!
Our love unthought and deed.
Send us forth!
In giving and receiving; Your promised kind, God fulfill. **R.**

Prayer After Communion

written by the Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, United Church of Canada

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:
When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;
when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,
slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."
For the doctors, we pray, for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists, the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick, and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected, all around the world...
we pray for safety, for health, for wholeness.
May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;

may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal the sick—
in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear.
Help us, O God, that we might help each other.
In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all, we pray. **Amen.**

Closing Blessing

<i>Rev. Alex Patchin McNeill</i>

Sending Forth

Our mass has ended, our service continues.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Song: A Rightful Place

<i>Angrisano</i>

***Let us live our lives so that all might see
that our hearts are restless till they rest in thee.
Let us build your kin-dom in love and grace,
so that all might know they have a rightful place.***

Beauty ever ancient and new,
breaking through the chaos so we hear you.
Shattering the shadows of death,
a new dawn is rising to bring your life, to all the world. **R**

To gather in your presence we came
to be one in spirit, in love and name;
strengthened by the body of Christ,
taking up the call now to share your love, with all the world. **R**

We are grateful that you have joined us for worship tonight.

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. Financial support is essential to breathe life into this dream and to keep it alive for future generations. To underscore our commitment, we support a full-time paid priest (ordained by the Roman Catholic WomanPriest movement) and a variety of social justice activities, giving a percentage of our Sunday offering back into the community.

To support our community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>.

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*Some song lyrics have been adapted to align with our commitment to inclusive language.
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ⁱ Opening Prayer taken from *Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation*, <https://ministrylink.org/pride-2020/>

ⁱⁱ Litany of Hope and Struggle: Honoring the Shower of Stoles Project, *Institute of Welcoming Resources*,
<http://www.welcomingresources.org/litanies.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ “Our Siblings’ Blood is Crying Out:” A Call to Listen & Action, Friday May 29, 2020, Statement from the Massachusetts Council of Churches Executive Director Rev. Laura Everett & President Rev. Jennie Barrett Siegel,
<https://www.masscouncilofchurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020.05.29-MCC-statement-22Our-Siblings-Blood22.pdf>

^{iv} Our Eucharistic Prayer draws inspiration from many sources, including enfleshed.com, past MMACC liturgies (written by Nancy Corran, Kori Pacyniak, Joe Stewart, Jane Via & MMACC’s liturgy committee), and other sources.

^v The “Prayer of Jesus” or “Lord’s Prayer” has been translated and rendered in many ways throughout the centuries. This version is a sung contemporary version. Words by Rus Kosits, Nancy Corran, Jane Via and MMACC. Music by Rus Kosits.