



# Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

•Making Catholicism relevant •Restoring women's ordination •Living the change we envision

## Feast of the Epiphany January 3, 2021



### Prelude

"Wade in the Water" was written during the era of slavery in the United States but was not officially published until 1901. Its lyrics have coded instructions to the enslaved escapees about how to avoid being re-captured. It suggests walking or "wading in water" in order to hinder the dogs of the enslaved escapee's chasers. The song is normally associated with the Harriet Tubman ("Moses") and the Underground Railroad. The song also relates to the Bible. Its verses reflect the Israelite's escape from Egypt as described in the Book of Exodus. The Chorus also refers to John 5:4, about The Pool of Bethesda..."For during a certain season an angel descended into the pool and stirred the water. Therefore the one who first entered after the stirring of the water was made well from whatever disease they had at the time." (Berean Study Bible )

This version of "Wade is the Water" is arranged and directed by Rob Dietz and performed by the A Capella Academy Choir. <https://youtu.be/uiqQKZZo-Uc>

## 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 you remain muted you for the majority of the service. Despite being muted, we encourage you to sing along at home and to join us in saying the **bold** spoken responses. At the time of the prayers of the people, we invite you to unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention aloud. Prayer requests may also be offered in the chat at any time. You may wish to have bread and wine (or something similar) with you to share in our spiritual communion.*

*I invite you now to take a deep breath and center yourself in the presence of the Holy as we begin with our opening song.*

## Opening Song – Gather Your People, O God

Bob Hurd

### **Refrain**

***Gather your people, O God.***

***Gather your people, O God.***

***One bread, one body, one spirit of love.***

***Gather your people, O God.***

Draw us forth to the table of life:  
Grateful companions,  
each of us called to walk in your light. **R.**

We are parts of the body of Christ,  
needing each other,  
each of the gifts the Spirit provides. **R.**

Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life;  
waters of mercy,  
waters of hope that flow from your side. **R.**

## Opening Rite

We begin our liturgy with the sign of our faith:  
+ In the name of God who shares divinity with us,  
Jesus, who shares humanity with us;  
And the Holy Spirit who unsettles and inspires us. **Amen.**

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

## Knowing God's Loving-Kindness

We pause for a moment to remember those times that we have not lived as God calls us to:

Breath of God, Breath of life, Breath of deepest yearning.  
***Come and transform us.***

Comforter, Disturber, Interpreter,  
***Come and transform us.***

Heavenly Friend, Revealer of truth, Midwife of change,  
***Come and transform us.***

Loving God let us not settle for false peace. When we see no need to rock the boat, we allow injustice to rule and reign. Give us the conviction to take on the work of transforming the world. May the God of Wisdom and Justice have compassion on us, forgive us our failings, and transform us to be prophets of truth and workers for justice in this world. ***Amen.***

## Gloria: Angels We Have Heard on High

*[All are invited to ring bells or other noisemakers as we sing the Gloria]*

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echo back their joyous strains. (R)

***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song. (R)

See Christ in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
While our hearts in love we raise.

## Opening Prayer

Holy One, you call us with your voice of fire and love to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your Chosen One Jesus the Christ embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. Together we pray... ***Amen.***

A Reading from the book of Exodus:

A new ruler came to power in Egypt. "Look!" the new Pharaoh said to his people, "The Israelites have become far too numerous for us. We must deal shrewdly with them before they become even more numerous. If war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

Slave masters were put over the Israelites to oppress them with forced labor. They built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

...

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Now, a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman. She became pregnant and gave birth. When she saw that it was a fine baby, of beauty and health, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket, an ark, for him. She coated it with tar and pitch. She placed the child in it and put the basket among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. The baby's sister found a vantage point a little distance away to see what would happen to him.

Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe. Her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. Upon opening the basket, Pharaoh's daughter looked, and there was a baby, crying! She was moved with compassion and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

The baby's sister emerged and asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" She answered, "Yes, go." The girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you." The woman, the baby's own mother, took her child and nursed him. When the child was older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

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

***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 82: Music and refrain by Juan J Sosa; Psalm Interpretation Nan Merrill**

**Refrain:**

***De la justicia brota la paz y del amor y calma***

***De la justicia brota la paz y del amor y calma***

O compassionate teacher,  
in the silence you make yourself known to all who take time to listen.  
Would that those in power heed your voice.  
“How long will you misuse power to oppress?  
When will you learn that to act with integrity  
will bring mutual blessing to all?  
Do you not know that to give succor to the poor  
and to free people to succeed  
will bring you more joy  
than all your bank accounts? **R.**

Arise! Awaken to the new dawn!  
Come into the light;  
shed shadows like skin on the snake!  
For the foundations of the cosmos are shaking with injustice. **R.**

I say, “Within you dwells the Beloved, the Breath of your breath;  
Open your heart in the silence  
and know the one in the many.”  
Arise! Join in the new creation!  
Let harmony reign among all the nations **R.**

**Second Reading**

Galatians 3:27-28

A Reading from Paul’s letter to the Galatians:

All of you who were baptized into the Christ have clothed yourselves with the Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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

***Thanks be to God.***

**Gospel Acclamation: O Holy Night**

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear babies birth.  
Long lay the world in pain and suff’ring pining.  
‘Till Christ appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices!  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees. Oh hear, the angel voices.  
O night divine, Night when Christ was born  
O night divine, O night divine

Truly God taught us to love one another  
God's law is love and a gospel of peace  
Chains shall we break  
For we share one humanity  
And in God's name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns joy, in grateful chorus raise we.  
Let all within us praise God's holy name.

Christ is born! Oh hear the Angel voices.  
Noel, noel, O night, O night divine.  
Noel, noel, O night, O night divine. (Repeat)

<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 1:4-11
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Our God is with you.        ***And also with you.***  
A reading from the Gospel attributed to Mark. ***Glory to You, O God.***

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. In the course of John's preaching, he proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as he was coming up out of the water, the heavens tore apart and the Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove. A voice came from the heavens, "You are my Own, my Beloved. In you I delight."

The Gospel of God.  
***Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.***

<b>Homily</b>	Pastor Kori Pacyniak
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## Profession of Faith: Pledge for Racial Justice<sup>i</sup>

As a community, as the Body of Christ, we join with people of faith and no faith, throughout the world, in committing itself to racial justice. And so we pledge together:

***WE SUPPORT justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.***

***WE AFFIRM that white privilege is unfair and harmful  
to those who have it and to those who do not.***

***WE AFFIRM that white privilege and the culture of white supremacy  
in which our nation and our church were founded and developed must be dismantled.***

***WE SUPPORT racial equity, justice, and liberation for every person.***

***WE AFFIRM the inherent worth and dignity of every person.***

***Therefore, from this day forward . . .***

***WE WILL strive daily to understand white privilege and white supremacy  
and how their existence benefits us.***

***WE COMMIT to help transform our church culture to one that is actively engaged  
in seeking racial justice and equity for everyone.***

***WE WILL make a greater effort to treat all people with the same respect we expect to receive.***

***WE COMMIT to developing the courage to live our beliefs and values of racial justice and  
equality.***

***WE WILL strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from our thoughts and actions so that we can  
better promote the racial justice efforts of our church.***

***WE WILL renew and honor this pledge daily, knowing that our church, our community, our  
nation, and our world will be better places because of our efforts.***

***Amen.***

## Prayers of the People<sup>ii</sup>

God has poured out the divine Life-Spirit, on Jesus and on us. Let us acknowledge our own Baptism into the Mystery, and ask for all that we and the world need.

Our response: ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

That we recognize that the Spirit's message to Jesus: "You are my Own, my Beloved" is addressed to us as well ... we pray ... ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

That like Pharaoh's daughter we nurture and adopt the children of other nations whom we find in our land ... we pray ... ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

That with Paul we live the truth that we are neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, but we are all one in Jesus the Christ ... we pray ... ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

That in this country we build a path to living in peace with each other, bridging the divides of political perspectives, race, culture, class, economic status, and all other human differences ... we pray ... ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

That we never fail to see Your self-revelation in the sun and the moonlight, in the darkness of space, in the clouds and the winds, in fire and in flame ... we pray ... ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

For all who believe they are not God-beloved, and for all who tell us that we are not loved by God ... we pray as Jesus said we should ... ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Spirit-Baptized community of joys and sorrows. We remember as well the universal needs of all of us, who have been assaulted by the pandemic and by the racism, injustice, and violence of our time.

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

Response: ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

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

For these intentions and for all the prayers written in the chat box and in our online community prayer book . . . we pray ... ***Life-giving, renewing Spirit, we are Your own.***

### **Closing Prayer of the Faithful:**

God of many names, hear the prayers we bring to you. Embolden us to speak out against oppression, empower us to work for the coming of your reign of peace and justice, and enrich us with your life-giving Spirit so that all creation may feel your touch and be healed. Together we pray... ***Amen.***

<b>Offertory Song: Healing Waters</b>	Thomson
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***Healing waters, flow over me.***

***Living water, refreshing me.***

***Mystery's ocean, transforming me.***

***Healing water, renew me.***

Flow through our hearts, O God.  
Come beat inside our hearts.  
Come fill our hearts with your compassion.  
You are the water of life.  
You are the breath of heaven,  
Together we renew cre-a-tion, God. ***R***

Wash us in waters of love;  
heal us, reveal we're holy,  
for only you can heal all, God.  
Wash over us, O Love.  
Refresh our thirsty souls for you  
alone can make us whole, O God. **R**

### **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, sustaining us in our hunger.

***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, sustaining us in our thirst.

***Blessed be God forever.***

Pray, friends, that sharing this bread and wine will enlarge our hearts and our souls to welcome and share with others more fully.

***Transform us, O God, we pray.***

### **Prayer with our Gifts**

Holy One, you have chosen us and called us by name. You call us into this community, to become a gift to one another. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup, that in sharing them we may discern your presence which becomes our life. Together we pray... **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer<sup>iii</sup>**

God dwells in you.

***And also in you***

Open your hearts to the One who is Love:

***We open our hearts to you, O God.***

Let us give thanks to God who takes risks for love

***For the courage of the Holy that lives in us, we give thanks***

When Your voice first thundered over the waters, You created the earth and all who live in it. You called a people by name to be Your own, and You led them by fire, through the waters, to the promised land of freedom. You sent your Chosen One, Jesus, among us. Baptized by Your servant, John, Jesus embodied Your love. Baptize us in faith and hope as You call us to be the body of Christ in Your world. Let Your love enfold us and all creation. In trust and thanksgiving, we join with all of your creating in singing:

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Baby's birth  
Long lay the world in pain and suff'ring pining  
'Til Christ appeared and the soul felt its worth*

*The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn'  
Fall on your knees, O hear the angels' voices  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
O night divine, O night, O night divine.*

Sacred is your presence and blessed is Christ with us. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled. And so in Your love for us, You took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, You pointed to Your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. 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...

*...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]*

*In the same way, Jesus took the cup filled with wine.  
He gave You thanks, and gave the cup to his friends, saying: "Take this all of you and drink. This is my blood, the new covenant of God-with-you. Do this in memory of me."*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ was birthed among us.  
Christ was killed among us.  
Christ rises again among us.*



<b>Sign of Peace</b>
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May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you today and always.

***And also with you.***

Let us offer one another – and the whole world – a sign of Christ’s peace.

<b>Lamb of God</b>
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Angrisano

***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 the body and blood of Christ, the instruments of God’s peace in the world.

***We are called to be the hope this weary world needs.***

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.***

<b>Communion Song: Will the Circle be Unbroken?</b>
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Tony Alonso

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.

## Prayer After Communion<sup>v</sup>

*Adapted from the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber*

God of wind and flame, of water and Spirit, You once tore open the heavens and descended as a dove upon Jesus and a dirty river full of repentant people... Now would be a good time to tear open the heaven and send down that dove again.

Send your Holy Spirit to stir up repentance in your people:

Who would rather double down than admit we were wrong

Who fill with pride at being one of the few who “know the real truth”

Who only manage to point to others and never ourselves, (and are maybe a tiny bit grateful for the obvious, overt racism, violence and xenophobia of others since it conveniently takes the spotlight off of our own)

We pray that you send your Holy Spirit comfort your people:

Who are grieving our dead.

Whose rightful rage might be corroding the edges of our hearts – (because those hearts are still needed elsewhere)

Who have had to break up with abusers or draw boundaries with unstable people in the past and know in our bodies how ugly this all gets

Who have joyous news they feel they cannot share

Who are trying (and failing) to still love those who voted differently than themselves

Who literally or figuratively find themselves (yet again) sweeping up the detritus of others' racism, violence, and ignorance

Send down that dove, Loving God, but help us look to the needs of our neighbor and not to the escape hatch of heaven to find her.

Together we pray.. ***Amen.***

## Closing Blessing

May our lives be a river. May we flow with the purpose of the One who created and called us, who directs our course and turns us ever toward home. May our paths shimmer with the love of Christ who goes with us, who bears us up, who calls us by name. And may we move with the grace of the Spirit who brooded over the face of the waters at the beginning and who will gather us in at the end. Let the Church say... ***Amen.***

## Sending Forth

Our mass has ended. Our service continues.

***Thanks be to God.***

Refrain

***We will choose Christ, We will choose love,  
We choose to serve.  
We give our heart, we give our lives,  
We give our all to you.***

How many times must You call our name  
and show to me that You are God?  
And as a lover You call to us,  
"You must love too." **R.**

Christ, our teacher and healer,  
Teach our hearts and heal our souls.  
And as we walk this road with you,  
Teach us to love. **R.**

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*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 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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**Opening Song:** "Gather Your People" Text: Based on 1 Corinthians 12; Isaiah 2:3–4; 11:9. Text and music © 1991, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

**Psalm:** "De la justicia brota la paz," Music and refrain by Juan J Sosa; Psalm Interpretation Nan Merrill

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Scripture Translations taken from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary by Nancy Corran and Jane Via, <https://www.inclusivelectionary.org/>

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<sup>i</sup> Pledge for Racial Justice is adapted from the “Racial Equity Pledge” by First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas and the version used by St. Francis Xavier in New York, NY in their Service of Lamentation, Rage, and Hope.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kn-pM3biTeGB39rMOMRjlxOsKMRhW1rz>

<sup>ii</sup> Prayers of the Faithful are written by Ray Trybus, a member of MMACC.

<sup>iii</sup> Our Eucharistic Prayer draws inspiration from many sources, including [enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com), past MMACC liturgies (written by Nancy Corran, Kori Pacyniak, Joe Stewart, Jane Via & MMACC’s liturgy committee), UMC’s Communion Service for Black Lives Matter, and other sources.

<sup>iv</sup> 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.

<sup>v</sup> Adapted from Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber Sunday Prayer for “Baptism of Our Lord/Insurrection in the midst of a pandemic edition”