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"Starry Night" by Vincent Van Gogh

Cosmic Vision, Emerging Dance

**5th Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024**

Welcome & Announcements

GONG

Good evening. Welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, on the land that the Kumeyaay people have tended for generations. My name is... one of your lectors this evening. Nancy Corran is our online homilist and presider. Suzie Knapp is our in-person presider. Today we gather in person and online as we journey through season of Lent. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are.

We'd also like to welcome any visitors with us today. For those on Zoom, please feel free to introduce yourselves on chat. For those visitors in person, if you feel comfortable, we invite you to stand and introduce yourselves and tell us where you are from.

[Pause for introductions]

If there are visitors, please indicate that the flow of the liturgy is in the worship aid booklet, and the songs are in the inserted white sheet.

For those of you joining us online, we invite you to join in our songs and communal responses in the worship aid located at mmacc.org. The link is also in the chat. Prayer requests may 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 communion. After our liturgy concludes, we invite our online participants to join in breakout rooms for some social time.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- To honor the quieter, thoughtful mood of Lent, during the sign of the peace, you will be invited to remain at your seat and offer a silent gesture of peace to those around you. We also ask that, at the close of Liturgy, just during Lent, we refrain from applause to help us carry the reflective tone of the season with us as we depart.
- MMACC has returned to a **5pm time Mass time** now that daylight saving time has returned. We had a great turnout for our survey about Mass start time! The CLC has received all the results and comments and plans to discuss them at their next meeting and report back to the community the results and any decisions taken based on them.
- The Centering Prayer Group is hosting a Lenten Day of Silence and Reflection which will be held this Thursday, March 21st, in the GLC Chapel from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. The day will include periods of Centering Prayer, contemplative harp, Lectio Divina, an audio by James Finley entitled “Meditations for Christians: Entering the Mind of Christ” and a time for faith sharing. Those who would like to continue the conversation will gather for a meal afterwards at a local restaurant. You are welcome to attend the entire day or drop in as you can. Please see the bulletin for the specific schedule as well as for what items you might want to bring, in addition to your lunch. Please contact Diane Langworthy for any questions or to RSVP.
- Please see our bulletin for other community news and events.
- Donations may be placed in the basket outside the chapel doors.

GONG

[moment of silence]

~ OPENING RITES ~

Opening Song - "God of Wonders"

Hindalong & Byrd

God of all creation, of water, earth, and sky;
The heavens are Your tabernacle, glory to You, God on high.

*God of wonders, beyond our galaxies, You are holy, holy.
The universe declares Your majesty; You are holy, holy.
God of heaven and earth. God of heaven and earth.*

Early in the morning, we will celebrate the light.
When we stumble in the darkness, we will call Your name by night. **(R)**

Holy, holy, holy! Oh, Holy Myst-ry!
Early in the in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Infinite Compassion,
God e'er revealing, we sing our praise to Thee!

Greeting

We begin our liturgy with the sign of our faith.

+ In the name of God in whom we live and move and have our being...
we pray, **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.**

Kyrie

Presider:

As we begin, we recall those times we did not know how to love to those closest to us...

Ever-Present God, when we are reluctant to enter wilderness places, afraid to confront
our true selves,

R: Awaken us to Your Vision; Teach us Your Dance.

Jesus the Christ, when our hunger for power, wealth, status, and personal security is
greater than our hunger for living as you lived,

R: Awaken us to Your Vision; Teach us Your Dance.

Life-giving Spirit, when we do not trust that our gifts are life for the world,

R: Awaken us to Your Vision; Teach us Your Dance.

Holy Love, as we journey through Lent, examining ourselves, our human condition, our earthly life, and our place in the Cosmos, awaken us to Your vision, teach us Your dance, we pray... **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Presider:

Holy One, during this hour of prayer, plant Your word, the word that sung the Cosmos into being, into our hearts. Grow it into Your Wisdom, leading us into Your dance, leading us into Your peace, we pray... Amen

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34a

A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

"The days are coming," says God, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt. They broke my covenant, even though I pledged myself to them. No. This is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days have come: I will plant my Law within them. I will write it upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have to teach their friends and family how to know God. All of them, from the least to the greatest alike, shall know me," declares God.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

from Psalm 106, Merrill, adapted

Our Psalm response is:

***From the galaxies and the furthest stars to the smallest atom in our heart,
You are the Flame of Love.***

Comfort us, O Beloved, with the tranquility of Your Spirit.

Lead us into calm waters.

Nourish our souls and gentle us,
that we may be pliant in Love's hands.

The earth itself will reap the blessing
Of those who become beneficent
And live with integrity.

R: From the galaxies and the furthest stars to the smallest atom in our heart, You are the Flame of Love.

Increase our willingness to risk, Beloved,
 To be open to change and surprise by the Spirit,
 To be willing to suffer that our souls may grow.
May we have faith in the unfolding of our lives,
 and radical trust in the universe.
May we embrace creation as a whole
 and become attuned to all the world.
May we be a blessing to the universe,
and see divinity in the within and the without of all things,
 that we may live in peace with all people.

R: From the galaxies and the furthest stars to the smallest atom in our heart, You are the Flame of Love.

For we cannot hide from Your love.
In You we live and move and have our being.
Your Wisdom is joy to our hearts, O Creator of the Dance!
May all who share in the Cosmic Dance become bearers of joy!

R: From the galaxies and the furthest stars to the smallest atom in our heart, You are the Flame of Love.

Second Reading

Galatians 6:7b, 8b-10

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians

A person will reap what they sow. The one who sows for the spirit will reap everlasting life from the spirit.

Let us not grow weary of doing good. In due time, we shall reap our harvest if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, including those who belong to the family of faith.

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

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of St Ann

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ, Everlasting Wisdom!

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ, Everlasting Wisdom!

Gospel

Mark 14:1, 3-9

God is with you.

And also with you.

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to John

Glory to you, O God.

There were some Greeks in town who had come up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?"

Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "It's time for the Chosen One to be glorified."

"Listen, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it is never any more than a single grain. If it dies, it yields a rich harvest. In the same way, anyone who holds onto life just as it is, destroys that life. But if you let it go, in the abandon of your love, you will have it forever. Whoever serves me, must follow me. Where I am, there my servant will also be. Our Loving God will honor whoever serves me.

"But now, I am troubled. What shall I say? 'My God, save me from this hour'? But it is for this very hour that I came in the first place! My God, glorify Your Name!"

A voice came out of the heavens, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." A crowd standing nearby heard this. Some said, "It was a clap of thunder." Others said, "It was an angel speaking to Jesus."

Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. The world is in crisis. The rulers of this world will be driven out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." Jesus phrased it this way to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of God.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Homily

Nancy Corran

Prayers of the Faithful 03-17-2024

5th Sunday of Lent

"I will plant my Law within them. I will write it upon their hearts. ... All of them, from the least to the greatest alike, shall know me." With thanksgiving for these transformational messages, let us ask for everything that we and all creation need.

Our response: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

That we do not fear to look within, and there know first-hand the imprint of Holy Mystery planted in our hearts ... we pray ...

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

That with Saint Oscar Romero, and with the dozens who were killed at his funeral, we spend our lives as peacemakers, actively witnessing against the use of violence ... we pray ...

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

For our Muslim siblings, fellow believers in the one God, who are now engaged in their sacred Ramadan observance ... we pray ...

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

Jesus said, "it is for this very hour that I came in the first place!" That we may, in the same way, know why we are here and what we are called to do ... we pray ...

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

The Earth contains the dust of countless generations of our ancestors, as well as the blood of Jesus and of our contemporaries killed in war. May this God-beloved Earth become for them and for us the garden of resurrection and new life ... we pray ...

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

That in the silent vastness of the cosmos, in its blazing lights and in its unfathomable black hole darkness, we find the Heart of Hearts who is with us and within us and who loves us ... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our Spirit-summoned community honoring God's presence in our joys and in our sorrows. We remember the universal needs of all living beings, surrounded by war, injustice, and violence, as well as by all-embracing Beauty and Love.

All who wish to share a prayer here in person, please come forward to the microphone. All who wish to share a prayer online, please raise your physical or digital hand and you will be called on in turn, or type your prayer in the chat and these will be read aloud.

We ask that your prayers be brief petitions, and in consideration of our diversity of perspectives, remembering the universal needs of all people.

[After each petition:]

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

[After all petitions have been spoken:]

We also lift up all those living with illness, injury, loss, and suffering, those who have gone home to the Holy One, and all the prayers here today that have remained unspoken, deep in the silence of our hearts...

(Short pause)

For these intentions and for all the prayers remaining in the chat and in our community prayer book ... we pray ...

All: Let us not grow weary of doing good.

Presider:

*Compassionate One, when we grow weary, remind us that You **are** in our hearts, in our souls, in our prayer, and in our play. You are with us night and day. You are our song. Revive us. Remind us that you are in the faces of all whom we meet, we pray... **Amen.***

Offertory Song - "God be in my Head"

Brown

God be in my head, God be in my heart.
God be in my mind, God be in my soul.
God be in my eyes, so that I may see your face;
God be on my lips, God be in my life.

God be in my work, God be in my play.
God be in my home, God be in my prayer.
God be in my song, so that I may sing your praise;
God be in my night God be in my day.

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

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.

Pray that our offering is one that God desires.

We are gathered in Your name. Be with us in our midst.

Prayer with Our Gifts

Holy One, Sower of Seeds, may these gifts made of wheat and grape remind us of Jesus' life and death and resurrection, and our own, we pray...Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

God dwells in you.

And also in You.

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

We open our hearts to God and to one another.

Presider

Holy are You, God of creation. At your word, all creation came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, stars, the planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home. From the primal elements, You brought forth human beings and blessed us to participate in Your ongoing web of life.

Voice 1

From the beginning, our destinies have always been wrapped up in one another - our individual well-being bound to the well-being of all. And so, with all those across generations, we join our voices in singing Your unending praise:

Sanctus

Mass of St Ann

Holy, holy, holy, O God of hosts,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are all who come in Your Name, Holy God.

Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Voice 2

In Jesus, we learn how to serve others, even strangers and enemies. He sought the collective well-being of all. He befriended those in need of community. He challenged the structures that divide and separate us.

Voice 3

The Spirit that worked through Jesus works through us. The Spirit of courage that kept Jesus proclaiming love even in the face of death can live in us.

(Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the bread and wine.)

Presider

Pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us the Body of Christ, that we might be the body of Christ in the world. We remember that...

All:

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying:

"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 life-blood; the cup of Love.

Do this in memory of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: *[Sung]*

Mass of St Ann

We proclaim your death, O Christ, and profess your Resurrection

until you come again, until you come again.

Voice 4

In the sacred season of Lent, may we experience anew Your call to forgiveness, transformation, and new life.

Voice 5

Rend our hearts for the healing of the world. Open our hearts to know Your sacred worth in all whom we meet. As we feast at your table, fill our hearts with the longing to follow Jesus.

Voice 6

Enable us to bring about a world where justice reigns and love flourishes. May we also hold our leaders, secular and religious, accountable to this difficult work.

Presider

We remember everyone who has touched our lives with the Spirit of Your love. We remember all who are sick and all who suffer. We remember all who have died and gone before us into the fullness of cosmic life with You.

Gather together people of every gender, race, language, religion and way of life to share in Your one unending banquet. In Your presence, we give You glory with all creation and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows.

*Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ,
In the unity of Sophia Spirit,
may all glory and honor be Yours, forever and ever:*

The Great Amen

Mass of St Ann

A-men, a-men, a-men. A-men, a-men, a-men.

~ COMMUNION RITE ~

Prayer of Jesus

Rendered by Unknown

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 spoken contemporary version:

*Loving God, in whom is heaven.
May Your Name be honored everywhere.
May Your kin-dom come,
May the desire of Your heart for the world 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.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For You reign in the power that comes from love
which is Your glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

Sign of Peace

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you.

And also with you.

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

Lamb of God [Sung]

Mass of St Ann

*Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of hope, O Jesus the Christ.
Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of love, O Jesus the Christ.
Jesus Christ, you call us to the gospel of peace, Grant us peace.*

This is God's holy bread and wine for the transformation of God's holy people.

All: We are blessed to share in this sacred meal.

*All are welcome to receive the gluten free eucharistic bread and the consecrated red wine or white grape juice. Whenever and wherever we gather, we are the church and God is with us. May all who share in this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. **Amen.***

Communion Song “Tend the Ground”

Stephan

*We till the earth, we tend the ground, sowing hope and peace where none is found.
In selfless love, God’s life abounds.
We till the earth; we tend the ground.*

As God provides for every need, with grateful hearts let us receive
these gifts of love, and make return, to bless the world, to bless the world. **(R)**

On rocky paths and trodden roads, God, clear the ground where thorns have grown,
Give us the grace to follow You,
Prepare the way, Prepare the way... **(R)**

Where hardened hearts have turned to greed, trampling upon the fledgling seed,
help us to tend each other's needs,
open our eyes, open our eyes. **(R)**

Let plows be forged from swords that kill.
Let tools of war be shaped to till
and break the hard and stony ground.
God, bring your peace, God bring your peace. **(R)**

Prayer After Communion

Presider:

*Holy One, in this meal, you have drawn us into You as a family of faith. May it give us the strength that Jesus had: to do good to all even when tensions rise. May the bread and wine we shared remind **us** to “till the earth and tend the ground, sowing...” seeds of goodwill, trusting the harvest will come, we pray...*

Closing Blessing

In honor of St Patrick’s Day, we close with this Irish blessing:

May we trust Christ with us, Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ in us, Christ beneath us, and Christ above us...

May we trust Christ on our right, Christ on our left, Christ when we lie down, Christ when we arise...

May Christ be in the heart of all, Christ be in the mouth of all, Christ in every eye, Christ in every ear...

And as our Lenten journeys approach holy week – as we prepare to walk through the valley of the shadow of death - may we know Christ's surpassing peace,

*Let the church say... **Amen.***

Sending Forth

This Mass has ended. Lent continues.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Song – “The Peace of the Earth” Traditional Guatemalan, Translation Carson

The peace of the earth be with you,
The peace of the heavens too;
The peace of the rivers be with you,
The peace of the oceans too.

***Deep peace falling over you.
God's peace growing in you.***

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

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we embrace 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 provide a full-time paid living wage for a woman priest (currently shared among our three co-pastors) as well as a variety of social justice activities. We give a percentage of our Sunday offering each quarter of the year to a community nonprofit organization whose work furthers our shared values. To participate in the work of our MMACC community, please visit <http://www.mmacc.org/donate>.

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