



# Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

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

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*"Shepherds Keeping Watch" by Dona Gelsinger*

***"Let the Cosmos Exult!"***

**Christmas Season  
Solemnity of May~ World Peace  
Liturgy on New Year's Day, January 1, 2025**

## Introduction & Welcome

### **GONG**

Good evening. Whether you are joining us online or in person, welcome to Mary Magdalene the Apostle Catholic Community in San Diego, CA, on the land that the Kumeyaay people have tended for generations.

It is good to be together as we enter the new year.

My name is Vinka Valdivia, one of your lectors this evening. Nancy Corran is our homilist and in-person presider.

We'd 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]*

Welcome All. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are.

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](http://mmacc.org). 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.

For those here in person, communion will be shared in both forms: gluten-free eucharistic bread, and consecrated red wine and white grape juice, which will be provided in single-use individual containers. Donations may be placed in the basket outside the chapel doors.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The All-Peoples Breakfast in Balboa Park is on Martin Luther King Jr Day, January 20<sup>th</sup>. MMACC has sponsored a table. Please contact Becky Wilder if you'd like to attend.
- You may notice that some lyrics in our carols have been revised from what you traditionally hear. MMACC's commitments to inclusive, expansive language and to contemporary, meaningful theology have led us to make some word changes. We invite you to experience the revised lyrics as a means of deepening our wonder about God, creation, and humanity.
- Please see our bulletin for other community happenings and information.

Let us pause for a moment of prayerful silence before we begin this New Year's Day liturgy.

### **GONG**

### *Candle Lighting*

## Opening Song – “Morning has Broken”

Morning has broken, like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the World

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from Heaven  
Like the first dew fall, on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the One Light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's re-creation of the new day

## Opening Rite

+In the Name of God who shared divinity with us, Jesus who shares humanity with us, and the Holy Spirit who unsettles and inspires us, we pray... **Amen.**

The grace of Jesus the Christ, the Love of God,  
and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.  
**[R] And also with you.**

## Kyrie - Knowing God's Loving Kindness

*As we stand at the precipice of 2025, we know that this year will see hearts pierced, and we know there will be joy. So, as we begin this liturgy, we acknowledge our own hopes and our fears...*

Everlasting One, when we do not witness to Your love in all Creation...  
**[R] Help us to witness to Your Love.**

Word and Wisdom-made-flesh, when we do not wonder at your re-birth in us...  
**[R] Help us to attend to Your coming into the world.**

Sacred Spirit, when we fear to be Life for the world...  
**[R] Help us to bring Love to birth.**

***ALL: May God, whose peace is ours, forgive our reluctance to embrace the Great Mystery of Life, and empower us to be heralds of good news, especially in troubled times. Amen.***

## Gloria [Ring Bells] “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

***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.

***Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo***

See the babe in manger laid, Jesus, child of heav'n and earth;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, With us sing of Love's new birth.

***Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

## Opening Prayer

### Presider:

*Holy God, in this hour of prayer at the start of a new year, remind us of your presence in us, with us, and among us. Show us what makes for peace, we pray... Amen.*

## First Reading

*Numbers 6:22-27*

### A Reading from Numbers

God spoke to Moses and said, "Speak to Aaron, Elisheba and their children and say: 'This is how you shall bless the Israelites. You shall say:

*'May God always bless you and keep you.*

*May God's face always shine upon you.*

*May God's face be lifted up to you in joy,  
and may God fill your heart with peace.'*<sup>1</sup>

In this way, they will invoke My name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them."

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

***Thanks be to God.***

## PSALM

*Psalm 67:2-8, Merrill*

The Psalm Response is:

*May the Holy One bless us and keep us.*

***R: May the Holy One bless us and keep us.***

The Beloved is gracious to us and blesses us.

The Radiant One shines upon us.

O, that Love's Way be followed in all the earth;

Love's saving power among all the nations.

May all rejoice in You!

May all sing with gratitude to the Beloved!

***R: May the Holy One bless us and keep us.***

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from a rendition by Anne Kertz Kernion, [www.cardsbyanne.com](http://www.cardsbyanne.com)



Let the nations be glad and give thanks.  
You call all peoples to integrity and justice.  
You guide the nations upon the earth.  
May all rejoice in You!  
May all sing with gratitude to the Beloved!  
**R: May the Holy One bless us and keep us.**

Earth yields its bounty.  
The Beloved blesses us.  
Yes, the Beloved blesses us.  
Let us abandon ourselves into the Heart of Love!  
**R: May the Holy One bless us and keep us.**

## Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

### A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians

When the fullness of time had come, God revealed Godself in a human being, born of a woman, born under the Law in order to free those burdened under the law. In this way, **all** may now be adopted by God as God's own, including us.

Since we are God's own, God sent the spirit of Jesus into our hearts, the spirit who calls out to God, as to an intimate and loving parent, "Ima, Abba, Mother, Father!" So now, understand that you are no longer a slave to law, but you are God's own child; and if a child, then also an heir.

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

## Gospel Acclamation

**Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## Gospel

Luke 2:21-40

God is with you.  
**And also with you.**  
A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O God.**

Eight days after Mary had given birth, it was time to circumcise their child. He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for purification according to the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to God. (It is written in the Law of God: "Every firstborn male shall be set apart and offered as holy to God.") So, they offered the appropriate sacrifice for Jesus according to what is stated in the Law: "a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. He was upright and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit dwelt in him. It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen God's

Anointed. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the Temple. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the Temple, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, singing,

*“Now let Your servant depart in peace,  
for Your word has been fulfilled.  
My eyes have seen Your bearer of justice,  
made ready in the sight of all peoples:  
a revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory to Your people.”*

The child’s parents were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary, “This child is destined for the fall and the rise of many, destined to be a sign that will be opposed. The inner thoughts of many will be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your own heart too.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age. After seven years of marriage, she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. At the moment Simeon finished speaking, she joined those gathered and began to praise God. She spoke about the child to all who were anticipating the restoration of God’s people.

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of God, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. The favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of God.

***(Sung) Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

### Homily - Nancy







1. Prophetess Anna balancing basket of three doves on her head and holding candle at the Presentation of Christ. Book of Hours (ca. 1400).
2. Anna holding inscribed scroll at the Presentation of Christ, wood panel by the 15c. Byzantine Painter.
3. Presentation scene in the Mont-Saint-Michel Sacramentary (Normandy, 1050-1065).

### Prayers of the Faithful “World Peace~Solemnity~New Year” 01-01-2025

“My eyes have seen your bearer of justice, made ready in the sight of all peoples ...” Holy Mystery has become part of the human family, through Mary, truly our sister . Let us ask God to turn the hearts of the leaders and people of all nations to world peace, and for all that we and the whole world need.

Our response: Holy Mary, pray with us, pray for us!

**All: Holy Mary, pray with us, pray for us!**

That Holy Mystery bless us and keep us, turn the divine face to us, and give us sorely needed peace in this new year ... we pray ...

**All: Holy Mary, pray with us, pray for us!**

For those whose words and actions are like a sword piercing our heart ... we pray ...

**All: Holy Mary, pray with us, pray for us!**

That with the spirit of Jesus we call out to God, “Ima, Abba, Mother, Father!” ... we pray ...

**All: Holy Mary, pray with us, pray for us!**

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: Holy Mary, pray with us, pray for us!**

That we hold close in our hearts those of us for whom this season brings a sense of loss and emptiness ... for them and with them we pray as Jesus said we should ...

**All: Holy Mary, pray with us, pray for us!**

We 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)**

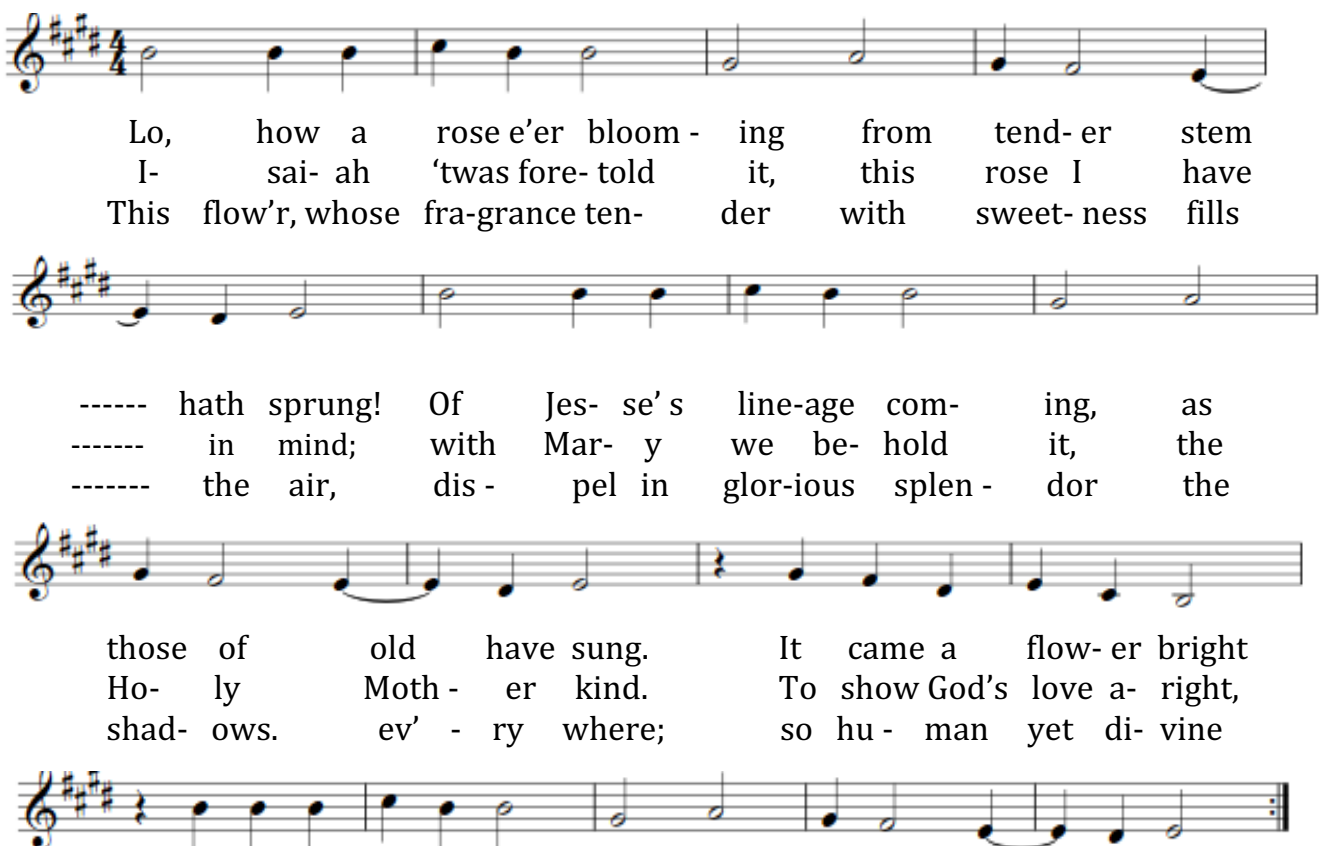
For these intentions and for all the prayers remaining in the chat and in our community prayer book ... we pray ...

**All: Holy Mary, pray with us, pray for us!**

### **Concluding Prayer**

*Holy Mary, Like us, You knew uncertainty and fear. Like us, You knew wonder, joy and love. Holy Mary, meet us along the way, and grant us peace, your cosmic peace, we pray... Amen.*

### **Offertory Song – “Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming”**



The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from tend- er stem I- sai- ah 'twas fore- told it, this rose I have This flow'r, whose fra-grance ten- der with sweet- ness fills ----- hath sprung! Of Jes- se's line-age com- ing, as ----- in mind; with Mar- y we be- hold it, the ----- the air, dis - pel in glor-ious splen - dor the those of old have sung. It came a flow- er bright Ho- ly Moth- er kind. To show God's love a- right, shad- ows. ev' - ry where; so hu- man yet di- vine



a- mid the cold of win- ter, when half spent was the night  
she bore to us Christ Je- sus, when half spent was the night.  
from wrong and death now free us, and share our ev' - ry load.

## 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.

**[R] *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.

**[R] *Blessed be God forever.***

Pray that our offering reveals the depths and reaches of Your love.

**[R] *We celebrate Your Presence in and among us.***

### **Prayer with our Gifts**

**Presider:** *Holy Presence, In this meal, we remember that Jesus was Mary's flesh and blood. In this meal, we know we are Jesus' flesh and blood. May our sharing this bread and wine connect us with Mary and all our ancient forebears in faith, who have broken bread together at the start of a new journey. May this meal be a source of strength and peace, reminding us that You are with us along the road ahead, reminding us that we are companions on the journey, we pray...Amen.*

## Eucharistic Prayer

God dwells in you.

**[R] *And also in You.***

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

**[R] *We magnify You, O God, and rejoice!***

Let us give thanks for God-with-us!

***(Sung)***

***Rise up, Shepherds, and follow.***

***Rise up, Shepherds, and follow.***

### **Presider**

Cosmic Wisdom, we give You thanks. In the holy darkness of this night, Your light is born. You draw near to us; draw us into You. Release in us the joy of this Holy Night.

### **Voice 1**

Help us to see Your cosmos anew. Embraced by Your nurturing darkness, we walk into the light of Your love as we join with all creation in unending praise:

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Christ-child's birth  
Long lay the world in pain and error pining  
'Til Christ appeared and the soul felt its worth  
A 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.*

**Voice 2**

Holy Love, You reveal yourself in Jesus' birth. In Jesus, we see the fullness of human possibility. In Jesus, hope is born.

**Voice 3**

We know this birth is a sign to us and to all the world of Your sacred presence in humanity and all creation, calling us to kinship and peace.

**Voice 4**

We rejoice in Jesus who taught us that we live in You, and that You are birthed in us and through us.

*(Sung)*

*Rise up, Shepherds, and follow.  
Rise up, Shepherds, and follow.*

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

**Presider**

And so, Holy Love, we praise You through Jesus. We recognize Your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and wine, and in us. We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms these gifts to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ, as we now fulfill Your command of love. 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]*

*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."*

**Presider**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: *(Sung)*

***This, this is Christ the One whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, Haste, we bring you laud, O babe, the child of Mary.***

**Voice 5**

Remember Your people throughout the world and Your people gathered here.  
Remember all who seek You. Remember all who have died and are now in Your cosmic embrace. In Your goodness, may we experience Your life-giving presence in the company of all Your holy ones.

**Presider**

On this joyous night, we wonder at the mystery that, as You were born in Jesus, You are born in us. Together with Mary, Joseph, Mary Magdalene, all the saints, and Jesus through whom Your goodness flows, we proclaim Your glory.

***Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
In the unity of Sophia Spirit,  
One God of all that is,  
may glory and honor be yours.***

**Great Amen**

***(Sung)***

***Rise up, Shepherds, and follow.  
Rise up, Shepherds, and follow.***

**Prayer of Jesus**

*Contemporary, recited*

Throughout the centuries, the prayer of Jesus, often known as the “Our Father,” has been translated and rendered in many different ways. Please feel free to use the words and language most comfortable to you. We offer this recited 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 the Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us offer one another – and the whole world – the peace of Christmas.

## Lamb of God – “What Child is This?”

***What child is this who laid to rest on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping.  
This, this is Christ the One whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, we bring you laud, O babe, the child of Mary.***

**Presider:** Gifts of love for God’s beloved.

***We rejoice in sharing these gifts.***

This is God’s table, not ours, and all are truly welcome here. Christ is present with us whenever and wherever we are. May all who share with us in this communion be united with us in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. **Amen.**

## Communion Song: “Hail, Holy Queen [Mary]” *Music, Lee; Lyrics, Via*

Hail, holy Mary, Source of Love, O Maria! O grace incarnate, Blessed of God, O Maria! Cosmic Mother, servant true, birthing bold you do not rue, first among the saints are you. Salve, salve, salve Maria!

Hail, holy Mary, Wisdom seen, O Maria! Despite convention, you proceed, O Maria! Powerful and rich decrease; lowly, humble shall God release; compassion, justice will bring peace: Salve, salve, salve Maria!

Hail, holy Mary, face of Love, O Maria! Fill our hearts with holy love, O Maria! You define our integrity; call us to fidelity; bless with hope’s posterity. Salve, salve, salve Maria!

Hail, holy Mary, truth and grace, O Maria! Sophia, justice you embrace, O Maria! Faithful model, disciple true, prophet of God’s word anew; love and joy you imbue: Salve, salve, salve Maria!

## Meditation and Prayer After Communion

*Poem by Lynn Ungar*

**Presider:**

*And, lo, the angel of God came upon them, and the glory of God shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not....*



Which is maybe a silly thing  
for a creature made of wings and eyes  
to say to a couple of schmoes  
who were just hanging out with their sheep  
until the heavens cracked open.  
Who wouldn't be afraid?  
And who stops being afraid because  
someone tells you?  
And yet, "Fear not" is the thing  
that angels say. Apparently.  
An angel says it to Mary. And to Joseph.  
"Fear not." As if that would undo  
the panic of the moment, let alone  
all the hardship to come.  
The story never says  
if Mary or Joseph or the shepherds  
were comforted by these fear-denying angels.  
Likely not. But all of them moved forward,  
did the next thing that was to be done,  
which is about all you can ask.  
And maybe when the word came from Herod  
about smiting babies and they had to run—  
maybe when all the daily terrors of life descend—  
it could be good to have the angelic voices  
whispering "fear not" all down the long road,  
and reminding you about the tidings of great joy.  
**Amen.**

## Closing Blessing

*adapted from the 'Song of Simeon' in Luke 2*

*And now, may we, Your servants, depart in peace.  
May Your word be fulfilled in us that we may be wise like Mary.  
Let the Church say... **Amen!***

*May our eyes be opened to Your presence everywhere,  
and may we be bearers of Your justice in the sight of all peoples.  
Let the Church say... **Amen!***

*May You reveal Yourself anew throughout the year to come,  
and may Your glory shine through the ages.  
Let the Church say... **Amen!***

## Sending Forth

This Mass has ended. A New Year is begun.  
***Thanks be to God.***

**Closing Song – “Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.***

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, through-out the heavens there shone a starry light. **(R)**

The shepherds feared and trembled when high above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Christ Child’s birth. **(R)**

Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,  
Peace came to earth through Mary, that blessed Christmas morn. **(R)**

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

*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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