

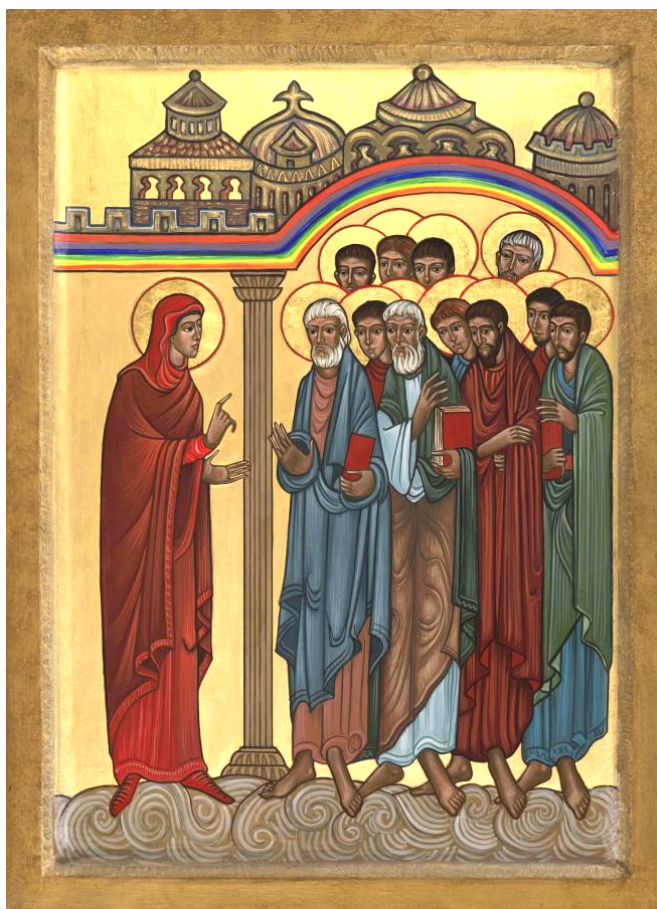
Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

"A New Way to Be Roman Catholic"

Making Catholicism relevant ~

Restoring Women's Ordination ~

Living the Change We Envision...



*"Mary Magdalene Announces the Resurrection"
Icon by Sister Mary Charles McGough, OSB*

Celebrating Our First 20 Years

First Sunday in Advent 2025

Welcome and Announcements

GONG

Good Evening. Welcome to Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, on the unceded territory of the Kumeyaay people, with whom we now are neighbors.

This is a very special liturgy, celebrating 20 years since our first Eucharistic gathering together on the First Sunday of Advent in the year 2005. We are honored to have with us today as in-person co-presiders all of our current and prior members of the Pastoral team: our community co-founders Rod Stephens and Jane Via, and the priests who have served this community subsequently: Nancy Corran, Kori Pacyniak, and Suzie Knapp.

My name is Ray; Sandy and I will be your lectors this evening. Today we gather in person and online. 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 those of you joining us online, you can find the worship aid at mmacc.org. After our liturgy concludes, we invite you to stay online for some social time.

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.

Everything needed for your participation today is included in the commemorative Assembly Worship Aid. Please feel free to take the Worship Aid with you when you leave.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today we will have a reception outside and in the Garden Room immediately following this 20th Anniversary liturgy. Next week and on the following Sundays our liturgy returns to our regular time of 4:00 pm until Daylight Saving Time returns in March.
- The **MMACC Christmas Project** is under way. We are providing Christmas gifts for the Casa Hogar Uriel orphanage in Tijuana Mexico this year sponsored by [Corazon de Vida](#). There are 20 children (orphans), 11 staff, and 3 girls who were former orphans and their children who are having a difficult time. All gifts need to be to George Perez at Corazon de Vida by Dec 15th. **For questions call Carol Kramer 858-382-5432.**
- **December 5th** is the first **Friday of December**. We will meet via zoom at **9:30am** to pray the contemporary rosary together which is a shortened version of the traditional rosary. Information regarding the version that will be used and the zoom link will be distributed later in the week.
- Please see our bulletin for other community news and events. Donations to MMACC may be placed in the basket outside the chapel doors. Online donations may be made through our website under the "donate" tab.
- Let us now take a moment of silence to prepare ourselves to celebrate our liturgy.

GONG

~ INTRODUCTORY RITES ~

Advent Candle Lighting & Remembrance of MMACC Beloved Deceased

Mary Cherry ~ Kathleen Dugan ~ Joe Wiedower ~ Kathy Dunlap ~ Evie McGreevey ~ Doug Jones ~
Edie Hunt ~ Ed Mansfield ~ Jackie Fix ~ Terry Grace ~ Bill Graney ~ Calvin Wilder ~ Sister Rachel
Daniels ~ Billy Pearsley ~ Irene Lawrence-Conrady ~ Mary Tompkins ~ Lee Mongrue ~ Dan Dinan ~
Hugh Kramer ~ Fred Spong ~ Tina DiStefano ~ Yvonne Silva Berberet ~ Sister Maureen Kegan ~ Jo
Ronayne ~ Paul Ryan ~ Frances Snyder, IHM ~ Liz Mahoney, IHM ~ Tom Conrady ~ Ray Phoenix ~
Mike Magee ~ Al O'Brien ~ Tom Popeney ~ Arlene Coulon ~ Josie Herrera ~ Luis Morones ~ Bob
Morris ~ Phil Bennett ~ Don Coulon ~ Thelma Adams ~ Mary Elbrecht ~ A.J. Kopkowski

~

*Should we have missed anyone, please include them in your prayers and let us know. Each year, we
remember our MMACC communion of saints.*

Opening Song

Let us build a house where all can dwell and all can safely live.
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **(R)**

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard.
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **(R)**

Opening Rite

We gather and we begin...

+ 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, 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 ~ "Call to Consciousness"

Presider: *As we begin, we pause to remember those times we resist bringing You to birth; those time we resist bringing Your Kin-dom to birth.*

Holy Mystery, when we do not watch for You and fail to prepare Your way.

[R] *Help us to watch for You and announce Your presence.*

Jesus the Christ, when we forget our interdependence with one another and do not witness to your love.

[R] *Help us to be Your messengers of love and liberation.*

Creating Spirit, when we do not wonder at Your cosmic creation...

[R] *Help us to wonder, rejoice, and serve.*

ALL: *Forgive our reluctance to watch, witness, and wonder. Empower us to be heralds of good tidings, especially in troubled times. Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, we stand in awe of the Cosmos You birthed. We remember the child Mary birthed, whose life - after death - transformed our world. We long to birth life anew with You. Twenty years ago, we birthed this community, one that seeks to actualize the equality of women and people of all genders in Your church. Today, we gather, we remember, we celebrate in Jesus' name...Amen.

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

First Reading

Revelation 12:1-6

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and in labor with the pangs of childbirth.

Then a second sign appeared in the sky: a great, red dragon. With his tail, he swept down a third of the stars of the cosmos, hurling them to Earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, waiting to devour the child as soon as it was born. But when she gave birth, the child was swept up to God. The woman fled to the desert, to a place prepared for her by God, where she would receive care for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

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

[R] *Thanks be to God.*

Our Psalm response is sung: Deep peace falling over you. God's peace growing in you.

R: Deep peace falling over you. God's peace growing in you.

My spirit soared when a voice spoke to me:

“Let us go to the House of God.”

Our feet are standing at the gates

of the path that leads to the Heart, the path that leads to peace.

R: Deep peace falling over you. God's peace growing in you.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Holy,

for you will lead us, preparing the way.

You will give all people knowledge of their holiness

through forgiveness, by making what is wounded whole.

For the tenderness of God turns the earth towards a healing dawn,

a light to shine on those living in fear, in the shadow of death,

a light to guide our feet into the path of peace.

R: Deep peace falling over you. God's peace growing in you.

Pray for the peace of the world! Pray all nations prosper as one!

Pray that peace reign among all peoples

and integrity dwell in every heart!

Then will friends and neighbors and former enemies

cry out in gratitude, “Peace is ours, we live in peace!”

For the sake of the House of God, for the sake of the Cosmos,

we will seek each other's good.

R: Deep peace falling over you. God's peace growing in you.

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-12a

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no evil to the neighbor. Love is the fulfillment of the law.

Love, also, because the time has come. It is time for you to awaken from sleep. Our completion is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is late. Daybreak is near.

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

[R] *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Sarah Hart

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (2x)

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

God is with you. **[R] *And also with you.***

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew.

[R] *Glory to You, O God.*

When the Chosen One comes, the Reign of Heaven will be like this:

There were ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish took no extra oil with them for their lamps, but the wise brought extra oil for their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. Their lamps continued to burn oil. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all the virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! There will not be enough for you and for us. Quick, go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves."

While they went to buy it, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was closed. Later the other virgins arrived, saying, "Please! Please open to us." But the bridegroom replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you."

Keep awake. You do not know the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of God.

[R] *Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.*

NB: Notes on the day's readings can be found at the end of this document.

Homily

Directed, filmed, and produced by Row Four Productions: Bob, Robert, and Richard LaPorta

"The First Twenty Years: Eight Personal Letters about MMACC"

Letters from: *Jen Bonakdar; Jackie Davis; Oliva Espín; Ron Frazier;
David Johnson with Paloma Roman; Kary Mauro; Paul Russo; and Lisa Shapiro*

On-set crew included: *Esther LaPorta and Carol Spong*

[NOTE: Today and each Sunday of Advent our POF begin with the “O antiphons,” that were first used in the 8th century as part of vespers or evening prayer in the week before Christmas. We have the first O antiphon today, and two more on each of the following Advent Sundays.]

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” In gratitude for our 20 years as a community of thanksgiving and prayer, and as we begin again our yearly celebration of Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray.

Our response: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

O Wisdom, coming from the heart of Holy Mystery, work within us to teach us justice and peace ... we pray ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

In thanksgiving for the 20th anniversary of our Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, which first gathered on this Sunday in the year 2005 ... we pray ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

For all those who have walked with us for all or any part of this journey of faith, that the fire of the Spirit remain in them for the rest of their days and into the eternal motherly embrace of the Holy One ... we pray ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

In thanksgiving for all the work of ministry, service, and leadership in our MMACC community by so many over the years, both within and beyond our formal membership ... we pray ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

For all of our pastors, Bishop Jane, Rod, Nancy, Kori, and Suzie, in gratitude for their courage, leadership, and inspiration, and that the Holy One continue to sustain them in their lives and their work ... we pray ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

Scripture commands us to treat foreigners the same as citizens, and to love them equally, remembering that we, too, were once foreigners. Let us work to make our country welcoming to migrants, immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees ... we pray ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

In thanksgiving for our gradually dawning, forever incomplete awareness of the great cosmic creation that Love has brought into being and sustains in its extravagant diversity every moment ... we pray ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

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 Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

For those who oppose us or are unable or unwilling to walk with us on our continuing journey of hope and discovery ... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

Let us now take a moment of silence to bring to mind all our personal prayers ...

[BRIEF PAUSE ...]

For all these intentions from the depths of our hearts ... we pray ...

All: Holy Love, keep us open to Your Spirit.

~ LITRUGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

Offertory Song & Presentation of Gifts - "Holy Darkness"

Schutte

Holy darkness, blessed night; Heaven's answer hidden from our sight.

As we await you, O God of silence, We embrace your holy night

You've been tried in the fires of affliction, Yo-ur soul has learned to grieve.
In the barren soil of your loneliness, There will I plant my seed. **R**

You have learned well the price of compassion, You have stood before the grave.
Though my love can seem like a raging storm, This is the love that saves. **R**

As the watchman waits for morning, As the bride awaits the groom.
So we wait to hear Your footsteps, As we rest beneath Your moon. **R**

Preparation of Gifts

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 sharing these gifts furthers justice, equity, and peace.

We long for holy peace. Embolden us to be champions of justice in word and deed.

Prayer with our Gifts

*Cosmic Mystery, we offer the gift of this community to You. We long to be Your bread and wine for the world. As symbols of this longing, we bring this bread, made by one of us, and this wine, chosen with gratitude, to Your table. Sharing this bread and wine, we recognize our oneness with each other and experience our oneness with You. Make us one with all Your people throughout the world, we pray. **Amen.***

Eucharistic Prayer

God dwells in you. ***And also in You.***
Come to the table with thankful hearts.
We give our thanks and praise.

Presider: Holy Mystery, we give You thanks for fertile darkness, for holy nights, for the longing and the love that created the Cosmos. Give us courage and endurance as we journey through the winter seasons of life.

Voice 1 (online)

Let Your vision for the cosmos be ours. Reveal anew Your presence in all creation. Make us ever more conscious that You Dwell within us, that we might live the desire of your heart for the world.

Presider

In trust and gratitude, we enter Sacred Mystery, as we join the cosmic chorus, singing our song of unending praise:

Sanctus *[Sung]*

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Sarah Hart

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 in the highest.

Voice 2 (online)

There is one crying in the wilderness who brings good news of Your Long-expected Messiah, who will guide us on a path of peace.

Voice 3 (online)

We acknowledge Your birth in a human child, born of a woman named Miriam, in a town called Bethlehem.

Voice 4

This birth is a sign to us and to the world of Your divine presence in all people and all creation.

Voice 5

Through Jesus, You scattered the proud, cast down the mighty, lifted the lowly and fed the hungry with good things.

Voice 6

Through Jesus You fed his disciples. Through him You feed Your disciples gathered here tonight.

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

Presider

And so, Holy Love, we await Your Long-Expected One, who is ever coming into our world. 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 said the blessing, gave the cup to his friends, and said, "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]*

Schutte

Holy darkness, blessed night,

Heaven's answer hidden from my sight.

As we await you, O God of silence, we embrace your holy night

Voice 7

As we celebrate now, we remember *and* look for the birth of Jesus, Your Messiah, who loved us, even to death. His life and death are a parable, teaching us to pour out our lives for the life of all.

Voice 8

Remember all leaders, secular and religious. Remember us gathered here. Remember all people who seek You. Remember all who have died into the fullness of Cosmic splendor, especially our MMACC companions in faith who have gone before us.

Presider

Gather us to share in Your one, unending banquet with Mary, Jesus, and all Your holy people throughout time. Then, in Your presence and with all creatures, we shall give You glory. For it is...

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,

In the unity of Sophia Spirit,

One God of all that is, may glory and honor be yours.

The Great Amen

Mass of St Mary Magdalene, Hart

[Sung] Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Prayer of Jesus [Sung]

Bethel

The prayer often called the "Our Father" has been translated, rendered, and sung in many ways over the last 2,000 years. Feel free to pray in the words and language most comfortable to you. We offer this contemporary sung version.

***Be-lov-ed, Cre-a-tor,
Holy be Your Name.
Your kin-dom, come through us
Your heart's de-sire be done
On Earth and through-out the Cosmos (Your cosmic glory)
We are Your hands, Your heaven is in our hands.
Pro-vide bread, for each day,
to share with all on Earth.
Forgive us, as we do
forgive those who hurt us.
And lead us in Your good pathways (your ways are good)
And keep us from evil, protect us, we'll pro-tect Yours.
Ours is the kin-dom, Love is the Power,
Yours is the glory, forever amen. 2x Let heaven come...***

The Sign of Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you, always.

[R] And also with you.

Let us offer one another, and the whole world, a sign of peace

Lamb of God [Sung]

Mozart

Dona nobis pacem, Do-na no-bis pa-cem. (3x)

Presider

Filled with holy longing, we wait and watch for Your coming.

[R] We are blessed to witness this wonder.

This is the table of Jesus, who made no restrictions. Neither do we. All are truly welcome to receive the gluten-free Eucharistic bread and the consecrated red wine or white grape juice. May **all** who share in this communion be united in the Body of Christ that knows no bounds. Come! God's table is ready!

Communion Songs

"Eagle's Wings" [Joncas]

You who dwell in the shelter of our God,
who abide in God's shadow for life,
say to your God: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

***And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of My hand.***

Temptation and pride will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear.
Under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield. **(R)**

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. **(R)**

For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways. With all their strength,
they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. **(R)**

"Holy Ground" [Beatty]

This is holy ground; we're standing on holy ground.
For God is present and where God is, is holy.
This is holy ground; we're standing on holy ground.
For God is present and where God is, is holy.

These are holy hands; God's given us holy hands.
Christ works through these hands, And so, these hands are holy.
These are holy hands; God's given us holy hands.
Christ works through these hands, And so, these hands are holy.

~ CLOSING RITES ~

Prayer after Communion

*Holy Mystery, we welcome the season of Advent with gratitude. We accept Your call to enter the Silence and the Mystery. We give You thanks for our existence as community. We're grateful for all those on whose shoulders we stand. Despite our failings, we long to love one another as You have loved us and to be signs of Your love, peace and justice in our world, We pray... **Amen***

Closing Blessing

Wisdom of Ben Sirach

*May God grant you joy of heart.
May peace abide among you, and in you.
May God's goodness be known everywhere.
As God endures, may we endure.
May God's goodness liberate us to be God's goodness
in our days, for all days.
Let the church say... **Amen!***

Sending

This Mass and our First Twenty Years are ended.
The Celebration continues.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Song - "We Will Rise Again"

Like a shepherd I will feed you; I will gather you with care.
I will lead you and hold you, close to my heart.

***We will run and not grow weary, for our God will be our strength,
And we will fly like the eagle; we will rise again.***

I am strength to the weary; To the weak I am new life.
Though the young may grow weary, I will be their hope. **(R)**

Lift up your eyes, and see who made the stars.
I lead you, and I know you, I call you each by name. **(R)**

Fear not, I am with you; I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; uphold you with my hand. **(R)**

*We are grateful to have shared liturgy together in
"Celebration of our First 20 Years"!*

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church.

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. No copyright infringement is intended.

*NOTES ON THE READINGS:

Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary

Revelation 12:1-6 focuses on an eschatological female symbol, is dramatic, and is filled with possible homiletic approaches. The sun cloaks the woman; the moon is her ground. Ancients ascribed male and female character to the sun and moon, respectively. They are now unified in this woman with child. Stars, beyond gender, adorn her. The stars (12) are the number of the "new Israel"; the heavenly (universal/inclusive) city yet to come. The woman is cosmic, embodying truth, beauty, and mystery. She represents the ongoing birth of creation in labor pains. The dragon, with sweeping tail and falling stars, makes this genre of apocalyptic prophecy a predecessor to the Epic Fantasy genre (cf. Lewis, Tolkien, MacDonald). Sensitivity must be taken regarding the dragon, a sacred symbol celebrated in the East. The dragon is related to the serpent. In nonpatriarchal ancient religious traditions, the serpent symbolized: 1) the eternal cycle of life and rebirth as in the symbol of the snake eating its tail (the ouroboros); or 2) healing, as in the symbol of the staff with two intertwined snakes (the caduceus) used in modern medical fields (see also Numbers 21:9).

The reading from Romans emphasizes the ultimate meaning and value of the Law of Love by proclaiming it in an eschatological (end times) context. Love is the only suitable attire for the coming of the end.

The parable of the 10 virgins in the gospel underlines the importance of watchfulness, a fitting entry to Advent. We keep vigil and keep the flame alight. However, womanist scholars have highlighted the danger of implicitly embraced structures of slavery in these narratives, including the practice of sleep deprivation (Mitzi J Smith). Critical interpretations have also engaged the problem of these "virgins" as "slave brides." Other scholars believe these were women of wealth, status, and privilege (see "vestal virgins"); yet they were in danger of public humiliation or death if they failed either in their vows of chastity or in keeping the fire burning. This reading both elevates women (the 5 wise virgins represent the faithful endurance of all Jesus-followers) even as it calls into question their systemic oppression through time. To honor the experience of those the "virgins" represent, it is vital to address these texts critically.

*Basilea is the Greek word commonly translated as "kingdom" in English. Whatever God's Basilea was understood to be by Jesus, it was **not** a reality that involved slavery. Note that "basilea" is a feminine noun. Should we be speaking of "Queendom" rather than "Kingdom"? Malkuth, the Hebrew word that underlies the Greek basilea, is more likely to capture Jesus' intended meaning. It does not necessarily suggest dominion, sovereignty, royal power or geographical empire, but rule or reign. In English, "kin-dom" is arguably a better expression of basilea. It can be compatible with the reign of Love or Kinship.*