

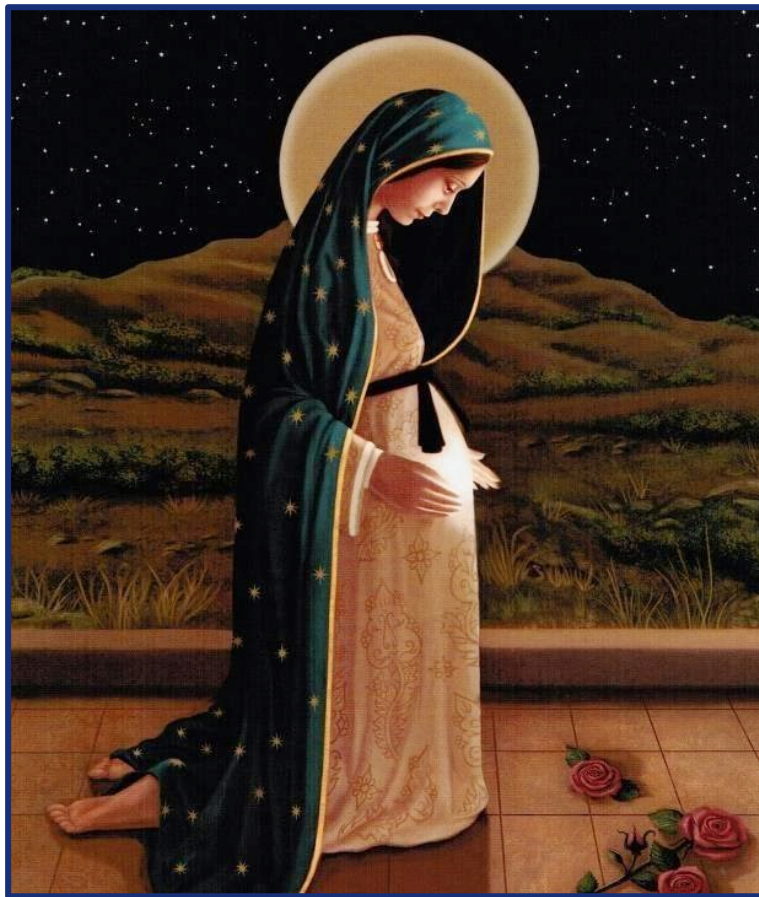
# Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

## "A New Way to Be Roman Catholic"

*Making Catholicism relevant ~*

*Restoring Women's Ordination ~*

*Living the Change We Envision...*



*Our Lady of Guadalupe, Artist Unknown*

## "Holy Darkness, Holy Night"

**Second 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.

Last week we celebrated our first 20 years with a very special liturgy and festive reception with many members and guests in attendance. From the planners to the implementers; from the set up to the clean-up crews, we thank you. Too soon after the celebration, this past week, we were shocked to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Rod Stephens, co-founder of MMACC, whose presence we honored and enjoyed just last Sunday. For Rod, for his spouse Howard, and for our heavy hearts, we will take a minute of silence in memory as we light our second Advent candle after these announcements.

My name is Carol and I will be one your lectors this evening. Jackie Davis, online, is our other lector. 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](http://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.

*[Pause for introductions] If in-person visitors are present, please read the following paragraph:*  
Our communal spoken responses are in the Assembly Worship Aid. The songs are on the white song sheet inserted in the Worship Aid.

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Thank you for your tremendous response to our Christmas Project. All 40 recipients from the Casa Uriel Orphanage have been chosen and George assures me the gifts are arriving. **Please remember gifts are due to George Perez before or by December 15th.** As always if you have questions please email me at [kramercj10@gmail.com](mailto:kramercj10@gmail.com). or call me 858-382-5432. Thank you for being Christmas angels to the Casa Uriel Orphanage.
- Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:30pm on December 24th.
- 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.
- We now remember Rod before beginning our opening song...

### **GONG**

## ~ INTRODUCTORY RITES ~

### Advent Candle Lighting in Silence

*We will hold a full minute of silence, remembering Rod.*

### Opening Song ~ Advent Begins in the Darkness of Night

Advent begins in the darkness of night, waiting and watching for signs of new life,  
in faith that our path will appear, daring to follow in spite of our fear.

Advent begins with our dreams yet deferred. Love sounds ridiculous, prayers seem absurd.  
But in the midst of life's center-less maze, we lift together our protest of praise.

Advent begins in oppression's domain, marked by the cries of confusion and pain.  
Yet hope is kindled where justice is done, mercy is nurtured and peace is begun.

Advent goes on till the promised dawn breaks, tyrants are toppled and God's dream awakes.  
Hope is perfected and faith is made sight. Love is our center and Christ is our light.

### 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:**

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

*...Amen.*

## ~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

### First Reading

*Isaiah 11:1-10a*

#### A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

A flower shall come out from the root of Jesse and Ruth,  
a wild shoot shall grow out from the roots.  
The spirit of God will be at work in that flowering,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and strength,  
the spirit of knowledge and wonder.  
The joy of that child will be in God.

Not by appearance will the child judge,  
nor by hearsay decide.  
Instead, you shall judge the poor with justice,  
and defend the meek of the earth with equity.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around your waist,  
and faithfulness will gird your loins.

The wolf will nestle with the lamb.  
The leopard will lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a young child will lead them.  
The cow and the bear will graze in the same pasture,  
their young lie down together.  
The lion will eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child will play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child put its hand on the adder's den.

None will hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain.  
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God,  
as the waters fill the sea.  
Then, on that day, all peoples will take refuge in the root of Jesse and Ruth.

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

**[R] Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm [Sung Response]**

*Ps 132 (Merrill, excerpts, adapted), Sung response: Ann Hidalgo*

**PSALM**

*Psalm 132 (Merrill, excerpts, with adaptations), Response: Ann Hidalgo*

*Our Psalm Response will be sung: Enter the Silence, enter the Mystery.*

***R: Enter the Silence, enter the Mystery.***

Enter into the silence, into the Heart of Truth.  
Herein lies the Great Mystery  
    where life is ever unfolding.  
Herein the Divine is made known,  
    and all are invited to serve.  
Listen for the music of the Holy Word  
    in the resounding Silence of the universe.  
By its balance and harmony, and by its rhythms,  
be drawn into the Heart of Love.

***R: Enter the Silence, enter the Mystery.***

Those who follow the way of Love,  
    know that all is working toward  
        healing and wholeness,  
    know the healing power of love frees us  
from fear and ignorance.  
Be not afraid of the Silence, the Mystery,  
    for it is there Wisdom's Voice is heard.  
From an embracing darkness,  
    from silent and nourishing night,  
children enter the world radiating Spirit  
    and sounding out naked innocence.

***R: Enter the Silence, enter the Mystery.***

Learn to dance with the unseen realms,  
    to see beyond the veil.  
Wise are those who learn through silence,  
    who learn to listen well.  
Beyond the silence and stillness within,  
    you will come to know the music of the spheres,  
    the harmony of the Cosmos.  
May the peace of the Spirit bless you.  
May blessings of the Great Silence be with you,  
    as you rebuild the heart of the world with love.

***R: Enter the Silence, enter the Mystery.***

**A Reading from the Book of Revelation**

"I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David and Bathsheba, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water.

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 3:1-12*

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

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew.

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

While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called "the Baptizer," was preaching in the desert of Judea saying, "Repent, for the kin-dom of heaven is at hand!" It was of John that the prophet Isaiah had spoken:

*"A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
'Prepare the way of God,  
make straight the paths.'"*

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to John and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their offences.

When John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to receive his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham [and Sarah] as our ancestor.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these very stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water, for repentance, but after me comes one who is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of God.

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

**Homily**

*Jane Via*

**Prayers of the Faithful 12-07-2025**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

[NOTE: The first two petitions today and on the remaining Sundays of Advent are taken from the "O antiphons" that have been sung in the evening prayer (vespers) of the Liturgy of the Hours in the last week before Christmas since at least the 8<sup>th</sup> century CE.]

"... you shall judge the poor with justice, and defend the meek of the earth with equity." As we work in patient hope for the full realization of God's kin-dom, let us ask for all that we and all creation need.

Our response: Come, Holy One.

***All: Come, Holy One.***

O HaShem, Sacred Love of Israel and of all people, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush. Come and set us on fire with your Spirit ... we pray ...

***All: Come, Holy One.***

O Root of Jesse, sprung of Ruth, in your presence the leaders of nations fall silent, and peace takes hold. Come and deliver us; delay no longer ... we pray ...

***All: Come, Holy One.***

In memory eternal of our beloved MMACC co-founder Rod Stephens, that both he and we may forever dance in the loving embrace of Holy Mystery, Mother and Father of us all ... we pray ...

***All: Come, Holy One.***

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: Come, Holy One.***

For the courage to allow John the Baptizer's message of conversion to a kin-dom Way of life to take root and grow within us ... we pray ...

***All: Come, Holy One.***

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: Come, Holy One.***

That we judge those who are poor with justice, and defend the meek of the earth with equity ... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

***All: Come, Holy One.***

Now it is time to bring to God the personal prayers and intentions of our hearts.

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, remember the universal needs of all people.

**[After each petition:]**

***All: Come, Holy One.***

**[After all petitions have been spoken:]**

We lift up all those living with illness, injury, loss, and suffering, those who have gone home in Holy Mystery, 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: Come, Holy One.***

**Concluding Prayer:**

## **~ LITRUGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~**

**Offertory Song & Presentation of Gifts - "People of Peace"**

*Landry*

***To be people of faith in times of doubt; to be people of hope in times of despair;  
to be people of peace, people of peace, O God, your instrument of peace.***

Where we encounter hatred, let us bring your love,  
where hurt has been oppressive, your healing care;  
wherever there are people who are needing to be free;  
make your church an instrument of peace. **R**



To heal the broken hearted, to comfort those who mourn;  
to go to those imprisoned bring freedom to the bound;  
to be a light for all who struggle to be free:  
make your church an instrument of peace. **R**

In giving to the hungry, in satisfying thirst,  
in welcoming the stranger, in comforting the ill;  
in being those who hunger for justice and for truth;  
make us all your instruments of peace. **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

***...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.

## **Voice 2 (online)**

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 3 (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 4**

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

## **Voice 5**

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

## **Voice 6**

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

## **Voice 7**

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 8**

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 9**

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 Song - Holy Darkness, Blessed Night**

*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, Love has taught your soul 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, It's Holy 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**

**~ CLOSING RITES ~**

**Prayer after Communion**

**... Amen**

**Closing Blessing**

*Let the church say... Amen!*

## Sending

This Mass is ended.  
Advent continues.  
***Thanks be to God.***

## Closing Song - "Canticle of the Turning"

Rory Cooney

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great.  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So, from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!***

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the world beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from the throne.  
The hungry poor shall be weak no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. **(R)**

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's love for us uplifts us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This healing word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
'Til the spear and rod are transformed with God, as **we** turn the world around. **(R)**

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*We are grateful to have shared in Advent worship together.*

*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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