

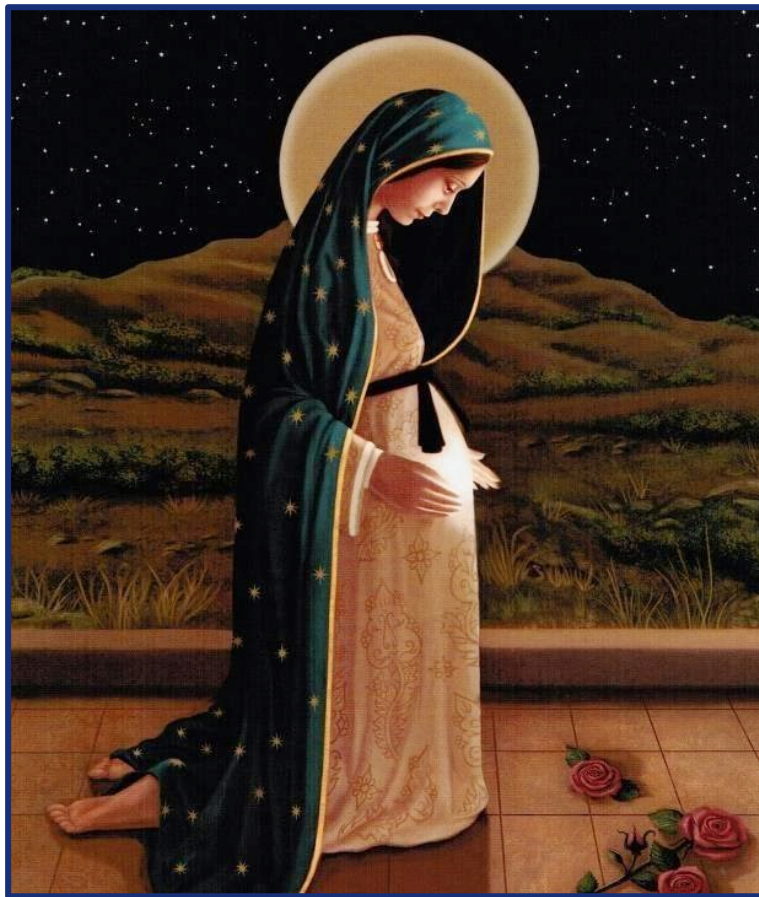
Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

"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"

Third 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.

My name is..., one of your lectors this evening. Nancy Corran is our homilist and online presider. Suzie Knapp is our in-person presider. Jane is currently in Mississippi, driving back to Missouri starting today. Her brother recently and suddenly passed. She is seeing to his final arrangements. Our prayers are for her, her brother's family and friends, her travels, and with all who need to travel as part of our grief-journies.

Today we gather in person and online as we wait, watch, and wonder this Advent season. 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.

[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 by tomorrow, December 15th.** As always if you have questions please contact Carol Kramer. Her email and phone are in the bulletin and directory. (kramercj10@gmail.com. or call me 858-382-5432). Thank you for being Christmas angels to the Casa Uriel Orphanage.
- Our Christmas Eve Mass will be at 7:30pm on December 24th. After the service, please join us for a friendly reception in the Garden Room where you are sure to experience good food, drink, and great conversation. If you're able to help with set up or clean up contact Mary Kay. Also, if you are able to donate sweet or savory finger foods or drinks, please also call Mary Kay (her number is in the bulletin and in the directory). We hope you will join us in celebration.
- 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 take a moment of prayerful silence, as we continue to remember all those who have already been born anew into the everlasting arms...

GONG

~ INTRODUCTORY RITES ~

Advent Candle Lighting in Silence

After Welcome & Announcements, lector lights 3 of the Advent candles, then returns to their seat.

Opening 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**

Were you there when I raised up the mountains? Can you guide the morning star?
Does the hawk take flight when you give command? Don't doubt the power of love.

In your deepest hour of darkness, I will give you wealth untold.
When the silence stills your spirit, Let My riches fill your soul. **(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 bring to mind those times we were out of our depth and could not see a way forward or hear a word of hope...*

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

Silent Speaker, Help us to hear You in silence, and see You in darkness. Guide us to Your new birth, O Immanuel, God with us, with joy and gladness as our escort, we pray...Amen.

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-2a, 2c-8a, 10

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the parched land will exult, the desert will rejoice and bloom.
Like the first flowers of spring, they shall burst into bloom, and rejoice in joyous song.
The glory of God will be seen in the barren land, the majesty of God revealed.

Strengthen shaking hands! Steady trembling knees!
Say to those anxious and fearful of heart: "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God who comes with vindication.
With divine justice, God comes to restore you."

Then, the eyes of those who cannot see will be opened,
and the ears of those who cannot hear will be unstopped.
Those who cannot walk will leap like a deer, and the speechless tongue will sing for joy.
Waters will gush in the desert, and streams flow in parched land.
Burning sands will become pools of cool water, and the thirsty ground, bubbling springs.
The haunt where jackals lurk will become a marshland, with grassy plots of reed and papyrus.

A highway will appear there too,
a road called "the Holy Way."
Upon it, God's people, restored, will return,
and enter the Holy City with singing.
Unending joy will be their crown.
Sorrow and sighing will take flight.
Joy and gladness will be their escort.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
[R] Thanks be to God.

The psalm response is: *You send guides and angels to lead us.*

R: You send guides and angels to lead us.

O Divine Lover, You gave birth to the universe,
the heavens, the galaxies, the planets;
Earth, its seas and all that is in them.
You are ever faithful, bringing balance and harmony to the land
and nourishment to body and soul.

R: You send guides and angels to lead us.

You secure justice for the oppressed and give bread to the hungry.
You set prisoners free.
You give sight to those who cannot see.
You raise up those who are weighed down.

R: You send guides and angels to lead us.

You love the righteous and protect the resident alien.
You come to the aid of the orphan and the widow.
You watch over those who journey, sending guides and angels to lead them.

R: You send guides and angels to lead us.

May You live forever in our hearts!
Loose the fetters of fear that bind us.
May we praise You with joyful song through all generations:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

R: You send guides and angels to lead us.

Second Reading

James 5:7-11

A Reading from the Letter of James

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Messiah.

Look how a farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, patient with it until the ground receives the early rains *and* the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, for the coming of God is at hand.

Do not grumble and complain against each other so that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. The prophets who spoke in God's name exemplify perseverance and patience. We call blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's endurance, and you have seen the desire of God's heart. How compassionate and merciful God is!

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

Thanks be to God.

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

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

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew.

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

After John was imprisoned, he heard what the Messiah was doing. John sent word by his disciples with this question for Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered John's disciples, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: Those who could not see receive sight; those who could not walk, now walk; those called "unclean" are made "clean"; those who were deaf now hear; the dead are raised; and those who are poor have the Good News proclaimed to them. Blessed are they who take no offense at me."

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed blowing in the wind? No? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? No! Those who wear fine clothing are in palaces. What then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

*'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'*

...And, if you are willing to accept it, John is Elijah, the messenger foretold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

The Gospel of God.

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

[NOTE: The first two petitions today and on the remaining Sunday 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 8th century CE.]

Gaudete! Rejoice! "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God ... With divine justice, God comes to restore you." As we work toward the full realization of God's kin-dom of wholeness and peace, let us ask for all that we and all creation need.

Our response: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

All: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

O Key of David and Bathsheba, you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open.
Come and release all prisoners, all those who live in the shadow of death ... we pray ...

All: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

O Morning Star, splendor of light eternal, and blazing Sun of righteousness, come and enlighten
with hope all those who live in hopelessness and despair ... we pray ...

All: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

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: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

That as God blessed the Americas at Tepeyac hill with the presence of the blessed Lady, may we
draw strength to do the inclusive justice that leads to peace ... we pray ...

All: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

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: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

That as we enter this time of special celebration and feasting, 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: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

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: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

[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: God-with-us, open us to the Presence.

Concluding Prayer: *Holy Mystery, May our prayers be as seeds buried in Your heart. As we await the fruit of our prayers, grant us patience even as You open us to the Presence that is always with us in us and among us, we pray...*

~ LITRUGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

Offertory Song & Presentation of Gifts - "Patience People"

Foley

Patience, people, till our God is come.

See the farmer await the yield of the soil,
Who watches it in winter and in spring rain.

Patience, people, for our God is coming.

Patience, people, till our God is come.

You have seen the purpose of our God.
You know of God's compassion and God's mercy.

Patience, people, for our God is coming.

Patience, people, till our God is come.

Steady your hearts, for our God is close at hand.
And do not grumble, one against the other.

Patience, people, for our God is coming.

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

Holy Love, As we sojourn here in this hour of prayer, You have given us this meal; food for the journey. It is Your message of love when we cannot see or hear You. It is comfort food for our broken places. In sharing this communion, we glimpse Your heaven. May the bread and cup gladden our hearts and strengthen us to realize Your heaven, restoring what is broken, 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.

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 - "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Traditional Tune

Alternative Lyrics by Linda Noonan, Advent 2024, UCC Palestine Israel Network

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
Our hearts are full with more than we can tell.
We mourn for those in exile here,
And notice all the ways that God appears.

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel.
God's with us in the places where we dwell.***

O come, O Cosmic Unity,
We find you in community,
In land, in creatures, galaxies,
In children, and in our own beauty. ***R***

O come, O Shelter, Sanctuary Home,
Stir us, that none will find themselves alone.
Call us to sacred spaces of rest.
Bring liberating joy to all oppressed. ***R***

~ CLOSING RITES ~

Prayer after Communion

*Holy One, You have called us to this sacred space of rest. Fill our hearts with love and longing. Help us to notice all the ways you appear, we pray ... **Amen***

Closing Blessing

*With Isaiah, may we not fear but be steady and strong, with joy and gladness as our escort.
Let the church say... **Amen!***

*With the Psalmist, may we look for angels and guides to lead us on the Holy Way.
Let the church say... **Amen!***

*With James, may we cultivate patience.
Let the church say... **Amen!***

*With John and Jesus, may we bring God's reign to birth.
Let the church say... **Amen!***

Sending

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

People, look east. The time is near, Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming, With the word, that God is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love Divine, is on the way.

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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