



# Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

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



*"Red Vineyard at Arles" ~ Vincent Van Gogh*

**Labor Day Sunday  
September 6, 2026  
Worship Aid**

## Introduction and Welcome

**GONG**

Good Evening. Welcome to Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community based in San Diego, California, on the unceded territories of the many tribes and bands of the Kumeyaay nation, our neighbors on whose land we have made our home.

My name is..., one of your lectors this evening. Jane is our in-person presider. Nancy is our online presider. And today we welcome representatives from the Western Service Workers Association who will offer today's homily... (Nancy to introduce...)

Today we gather in person and online as we celebrate Labor Day. Although MMACC celebrates the ongoing miracle of creation throughout the liturgical year, we recognize that today also begins the Season of Creation, now celebrated by Christians around the globe, including those in the Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant traditions. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are.

We greet those of you on YouTube. Those on Zoom can find the worship aid on our website or in the chat. 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 lines:

*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

- After liturgy today, our guests from Western Service Workers Association will have a table set up with more information available as well as an opportunity to donate or sign up to volunteer, if interested.
- This Saturday, September 12 at 4pm, RCWP's Region for the Holy Margins (the region to which Jane, Nancy, Suzie, and Kori belong) will hold a liturgy celebrating Creation. All the RCWP-led communities in our region are invited. The liturgy will be online. The Zoom link will be sent by email and will also be in our bulletin and on our website.

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.

I invite you now to center yourselves in Holy Presence before we begin our opening song.

**GONG**

## ~ INTRODUCTORY RITES ~

|                                    |                                                |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Opening Song: "The Summons"</b> | <i>Words: John L Bell; Melody: Kelvingrove</i> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known?  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let those blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set those captive free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss those deemed unclean, and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape this world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

God, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go, where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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|---------------------|
| <b>Opening Rite</b> |
|---------------------|

We remember our call to the work of love - to the labor of love - as we begin our liturgy with the sign of our faith...  
+ In the name of God, Who sows, labors, and harvests... **Amen.**

May the grace of Jesus the Christ, the love of God, and the peace of Sophia Spirit be with you.  
And also with you.

|                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Kyrie ~ Knowing God's Loving-Kindness</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|

*We are called to be people of faith in the world, to bring the lives of laborers to the pulpits.  
As we begin... we call to mind times we failed to see the face of God in the lives of the  
working-poor and in the lives of the poor in spirit.*

Liberating God, we fail to fully embrace You when we ignore Your call to share our wealth.  
***Transform our hearts and lives.***

Jesus the Christ, we fail to continue your mission when we fail to serve those who labor to serve us.

***Transform our hearts and lives.***

Compassionate One, we fail You when we, your church, become complacent while injustice rages on.

***Transform our hearts and lives.***

***ALL: May God have mercy on us, forgive us our reluctance to change our economic systems, and teach us new ways to live so that all can live in security and peace. Amen.***

## **Opening Prayer**

*Instill in us, O God, a deep solidarity with all whose work is burdensome, all who do not experience work as grace, and all who have no work. Strengthen us to work with You, O God, to build a just world so that everyone might have enough and peace might prevail. In your name, we pray... Amen.*

## **First Reading**

*Ruth 2:2-9*

### **A Reading from the Book of Ruth**

Ruth, a young widow and a Moabite, lived with her mother-in-law, Naomi. All of Naomi's children had died, and Naomi also was widowed. Together, they moved to Judah, Naomi's home country.

In order to sustain themselves, Ruth, said to Naomi, "Let me go glean ears of grain in the field of anyone who will allow me that favor." Naomi replied, "Yes, go, my daughter." So, she went and gleaned in a field behind the harvesters. She happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Naomi's husband, Elimelech (which means God is my Ruler).

Just then, Boaz returned from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "God be with you." "God bless you!" they replied.

Boaz asked the head laborer of the harvesters, "Where does this young woman come from? To whom does she belong?" The head laborer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She asked, 'Please, let me glean whatever falls from the sheaves behind the reapers.' Ever since early this morning until now she has been on her feet, with scarcely a moment's rest."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Don't glean in anyone else's field, and don't leave my field. Stay close to the other women who work for me. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. Whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the pitchers of water they have drawn."

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

***Thanks be to God.***

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|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Psalm 72:1-2+4; 12-14; 16-17b</b> |
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Our Psalm Response is: *We reach out our hands.*

***R: We reach out our hands.***

Let the rulers rule with Your justice, O God,  
providing hope to those who benefit least.  
May they defend the cause of the oppressed among the people.  
May they guard the children of the oppressed,  
overturning uneven tables.

***R: We reach out our hands.***

Like God, let us offer a hand  
to those in need when they call,  
to those who have no helper.  
God's compassion is stirred by all who are vulnerable,  
God dignifies the lives of the poor.  
From extortion and violence, God redeems people.  
Precious is their blood in God's sight.

***R: We reach out our hands.***

May there be abundance of grain for all.  
May it wave on the tops of mountains!  
May its fruit be like Lebanon!  
May people blossom across the land,  
like the grass of the field!  
May the peoples of Earth be a blessing.  
May all be blessed in God and one another.

***R: We reach out our hands.***

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| <b>Second Reading</b> |
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| <i>Romans 12:9-13</i> |
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**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans**

Let love be genuine. Hate what is evil. Hold fast to what is good. Love one another with mutual affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal but be fervent in spirit as you serve God. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints. Extend hospitality to strangers.

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

***Thanks be to God.***

*~ Moment of Silence ~*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Mass of Joyful Heart, Angrisano*



## Gospel

God is with you. ***And also with you.***

A reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew. ***Glory to You, O God.***

The kin-dom of heaven is like an owner of a vineyard who went out early in the morning to hire workers. After agreeing with the workers for the usual daily wage, one denarius, the workers went into the vineyard. When the owner went out about nine o'clock and found others standing idle in the marketplace, the wine grower said to them, "You also go to my vineyard, and I will pay you what is just." So, they went. Then the owner went out again about noon, and then also at about three o'clock, and did the same. And about five o'clock, still others were standing around. So, the owner said, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They replied, "Because no one has hired us." The wine grower said, "You also go into my vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to the manager, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." Those who were hired at the end of the day came forward and received the usual daily wage, one denarius. Then, when the first workers came forward, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each, a usual day's wage.

They took it, but grumbled at the wine grower saying, "The workers who came last have put in only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, even though we have done a heavy day's labor in the heat." The landowner answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you. Did we not agree on one denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to pay the latecomer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own affairs? Why should you be envious because I am generous?"

It is in this way that the last will be first, and the first, last.

The Gospel of God.

***Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.***

## Homily

*Reflection by Western Service Workers Association*

***Nancy will offer a few words as transition after the readings and then invite WSWA forward***

## Prayers of the People

"It is in this way that the last will be first, and the first, last." "God's compassion is stirred by those who are vulnerable." The kin-dom of God challenges us at every turn. Let us call on the God of this kin-dom for all that we and all creation need

Our response: Let us offer a hand to those in need.

***All: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

That from Ruth, and from determined working women down through the ages, we learn that God's compassion is stirred by those who are vulnerable ... we pray ...

***All: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

That we never waver in our active support for justice and fair wages and working conditions for all who work ... we pray ...

***All: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

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: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

We observe the colossal dynamics of the reality evolving around us, the indescribable and sacred events of the past, and the numinous unfolding of the future, of which we are forever a part ... and so we pray ...

***All: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

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

***All: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

For those who do not share our views of God, of justice, and of how to live in harmony with working people and all humanity ... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

***All: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

*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.*

**[After each petition:]**

***All: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

**[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: Let us offer a hand to those in need.***

**Concluding Prayer of the People:**

*God who is Justice and Compassion, we bring our prayers to you in the knowledge that you are already at work. Help us to mend the brokenness in our economic systems, - or change them. Together help us be the people you have called us to be, reflecting your compassion, mercy, and justice in all that we do. In Your many Holy Names, we pray... Amen.*

**~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~****Offertory Water: "Come to the Water"***Foley*

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to our God:  
Without money, without price.  
Why should you pay the price, except for our God?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to our God:  
Without money, without strife.  
Why should you spend your life, except for our God?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.  
And let all who are weary, let them come to our God:  
All who labor, without rest,  
How can your soul find rest, except for our God?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.  
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to our God:  
Bring the children without might.  
Easy the load and light: Come to our God.

**Preparation of the Bread & Wine**

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 for us our spiritual drink.  
***Blessed be God forever.***

Friends, pray that sharing this bread and wine will enhance and deepen our appreciation of the work of human hands.  
***ALL: Equip us to create a world with security, dignity, and sustainability for all people.***

## Prayer with our Gifts

*We give you thanks, Holy Mystery, for Life and all that we receive from Your hands. Keep us mindful of the hands that prepared these gifts and especially the hands of workers who make possible harvests of plenty, including this meal before us, we pray...*

## Eucharistic Prayer\*

God dwells in you.

***And also in you.***

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

***We open our hearts to God and to one another.***

### Presider:

Blessed and holy are You, Creating One. We witness Your ongoing work unfolding in the cosmos. From primal elements, in time, humanity emerged, blessed to participate in Your ongoing web of life. We thank You for the abundance of Earth and the blessing of work in human life. And so, we join with all of creation throughout time singing our unending song of praise:

## Sanctus

*Angrisano, Mass of Joyful Heart*

***Holy, Holy, Holy, One God of Life!***

***Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed are all who come in Your name Holy God, in Your name Holy God.***

***Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!***

### Voice 1 (online)

Your Sacred Presence is revealed in all that is, including human experience. You are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life.

### Voice 2 (online)

We give You thanks for Jesus. He gathered laborers to be his disciples, preached good news to the poor, proclaimed release to captives, gave sight to those who could not see, set at liberty those oppressed, and announced the year of Jubilee; the good news of liberation.

### Presider

On the night before Jesus died, he gathered with friends to share a final meal together.

*[Please extend your hand, palm up, toward the gifts.]*

***ALL: We open ourselves to Your Spirit who sanctifies and transforms this bread and this wine to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ.***

**Presider:** We remember that...

***ALL: ... on the night before Jesus died, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his companions, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body. Do this in memory of me."***

[Pause]

***After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, and gave them the cup, 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: [Recited]

***When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Jesus, until you come again.***

**Voice 3**

Let Your Spirit come upon all leaders, secular and religious, that they abandon divisive politics and work for the common good. Imbue in them the joy of humble service. In their labor for the human community, also make them faithful guardians of Earth, on whose fruits we rely.

**Voice 4**

Help us resist those who put profit and greed before worker justice. Increase our commitment to equality, peace, and justice for all.

**Voice 5**

Take away all that divides the human community. Through Your Spirit make us a sign of unity, instruments of Your peace.

**Voice 6**

Be with all who are sick and all who suffer, especially those who experience unsafe working conditions. Be with all who have died and gone before us into Cosmic Splendor.

**Presider**

In Your presence, we give You glory with all creation and with Jesus through whom Your goodness flows.

***Through Christ, may all creation unfold.***

***With Christ, may all creation be one.***

***In Christ, may all life be healed.***

**Great Amen [Sung]**

*Angrisano, Mass of a Joyful Heart*



## Prayer that Jesus Taught Us [Recited]

*Throughout the centuries, the prayer of Jesus, often known as the “Our Father,” has been translated and rendered in many different ways. Feel free to pray in the language and words most comfortable to you. We offer this contemporary recited version, adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book:*

***Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:***

***The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
The desire of Your heart be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.***

***With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. 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 – God’s peace.

## Lamb of God [Sung]

*Angrisano, Mass of a Joyful Heart*



In and through the Spirit, we are God’s partners in creation.

***We are happy and blessed to share this sacred work.***

*This is the table of Jesus, who made no restrictions. Neither do we. All are truly welcome and invited 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! **Amen!***

## Communion Song - "Harvest of Justice"

***May we find richness in the harvest of justice  
Which Christ Jesus has ripened for us.  
Bread for the journey, bread for the hungry,  
All for the glory and praise of God.***

For to have love for those forgotten  
This is my true law this is my command.  
Clothe the naked, be home for the orphan,  
Be hope for the widow and welcome the lost. **(R)**

For to have little is to be in abundance  
To give what remains to give all we have.  
Is to walk with the poor ones and become the stranger,  
*One with Christ Jesus, Creator and God. (R)*

## **Closing Blessing** *adapted from re-worship, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>*

*God of the rough-worn hands, as we honor workers this day, let us not forget those whose work is without honor in our society...*

*Christ of the aching back, you worked the rough wood, you know the bitter thirst of the poor. Help us to work toward transformation of economic systems that harm or disrespect our siblings, and our earth...*

*Spirit of Creative Power, move among us this day. Be present with all who labor to survive. Sustain us always in our efforts for a world changed by Holy Love and Divine Justice.  
Let the church say... Amen.*

## **Sending Forth**

This mass has ended. Our work continues.  
***Thanks be to God.***

## **Closing Song: "Let Justice Roll Like a River"**

*Haugen*

***Let justice roll like a river, and wash all oppression away;  
Come, O God, and take us, move and shake us,  
Come now, and make us anew, that we might live justly like you.***

Take from me your holy feasts, all your off'rings and your music;  
Let justice flow like waters, and integrity like an everflowing stream. **R.**

How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your mercy to dawn,  
the day we beat our swords into ploughs, when your peace reigns over the earth? **R.**

You have been told the way of life, the way of justice and peace;  
to act justly, to love gently, and walk humbly with God. **R.**

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

*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>.*

### **Acknowledgements**

\*Our Eucharistic Prayer draws inspiration from many sources, including enfleshed.com, past MMACC liturgies (written by Nancy Corran, Kori Pacyniak, Joe Stewart, Jane Via & MMACC's liturgy committee), and other sources.

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Some song lyrics have been adapted to align with our commitment to inclusive language.

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Portions of this worship aid were adapted from Laudato Si'