



Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community

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



"There is a time to plant and a time to uproot."
Eccl 3:2b

**MMACC celebrates the Feast Days of
St Francis of Assisi (10/4)
&
St Teresa of Avila (10/15)
*with a Blessing of Animals***

**Worship Aid
October 4, 2026**

Welcome & Announcements

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. Suzie Knapp is our homilist and in-person presider. Nancy will serve as online presider for those online. Today we gather in person and online. Know that wherever you are and whoever you are, you are welcome here, just as you are.

Today we celebrate the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi with the blessing of animals. We also celebrate St Teresa of Avila, whose Feast Day is also this month, remembering with her that in contemplating creation we encounter the divine.

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

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 to take a prayerful breath before our Blessing of Animals.

GONG

~ INTRODUCTORY RITES ~

Blessing of the Animals

LUZ: "But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ...and the fish of the sea will declare to you. In God's hand is the life of every living thing..." (*Job 12: 7, 8b, 10a*)

SUZIE: As we gather, we are mindful that, as part of God's creation, we wish the best for one another, and for all that God called good.

VINKA: We ask your blessing on all creatures celebrating in the wild.
We also ask your blessing on the creatures that we love, those present here, those represented on our tribute table, and those in our hearts.
For those online, we invite you now to hold your animals, photos of animals, or stuffed animals in front of the camera. Please feel free to share photos or memories or names of pets in the chat. Please also extend your hand in blessing in the way that is most meaningful to you.

SUZIE: *Blessed are you, O God, maker of all living creatures.
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land.
You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his siblings.
We ask you to bless our beloved pets.
By the power of your love, may their lives be free from suffering,
full of love and happiness within our homes and families.
May we always praise you for the beauty of creation.
Blessed are you, our God, in all your creatures! **Amen.***

LUZ: Let us take a moment now to remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically. **(brief pause)**

SUZIE: *We give thanks for the lives of animal companions no longer with us.
We commend them to Your loving care.
Enlarge our gratitude for the lives of our beloved companions
who have lived among us and revealed Your love.
We take comfort knowing that all living things are yours and return to you.
We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways
they enriched and blessed our lives. **Amen.***

VINKA: Now, let us rise as able, celebrating the beauty of creation in song...

Opening Song: "Canticle of the Sun"

Haugen

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is shouting for joy.
Come, dance in the forest, come play in the field,
and sing, sing to the glory of our God.*

Praise for the sun, the bringer of day, it carries the light of our God in its rays;
the moon and the stars that lighten the way unto our path. **(R)**

Praise for the rain that waters our fields, and blesses our crops so all the earth
yields; From death unto life its myst'ry revealed springs forth in joy. **(R)**

Praise for the fire it gives us its light, the warmth of the sun to brighten our night;
It dances with joy, its spirit so bright, it sings of you. **(R)**

Sign of the Cross & Greeting

And we begin with the sign of our faith...
+ 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... **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.

Kyrie ~ Knowing God's Loving-Kindness

As we begin, we remember our oneness...

Creating One, quiet us to contemplate You-in-all and our relationship with all.
We stand on holy ground, connected in the web of life.

Jesus the Christ, open our hearts that we may become who we are: channels of Your love in
the world, especially to those who need it most.
We stand on holy ground, connected in the web of life.

Life-giving Spirit, teach us to live in communion with all creation and in harmony with the
diversity in Creation.
We stand on holy ground, connected in the web of life.

**ALL: Holy One, awaken us to the needs of Earth and the whole earth community. Help
us advance the common good that all beings may flourish. Amen.**

Please be seated.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

...Then God said: Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky. So, God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and moves about in it, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw that it was good, and God blessed them... Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said: Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: tame animals, crawling things, and every kind of wild animal. So, it happened. And God blessed them...

God looked at everything and saw that it was very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148*adapted into a poem by St Francis of Assisi, traditional tune*

All creatures of our God, come sing!
Lift up your voice with joyful ring! *O sing ye! Alleluia!*
Thou burning sun with golden beam;
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
O Praise Thee! O Praise Thee! Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu – ia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along, *O sing ye! Alleluia!*
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice!
O Praise Thee! O Praise Thee! Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu – ia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy God to hear, *O sing ye! Alleluia!*
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that gives to us both warmth and light,
O Praise Thee! O Praise Thee! Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu – ia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day,
unfolding blessings on your way, *O sing ye! Alleluia!*
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them God's glory also show!
O Praise Thee! O Praise Thee! Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu – ia!

Second Reading

A Reflection on Teresa of Avila's love for God revealed in and through Creation Abbreviated and adapted from Tessa Bielecki

Teresa... was in love with every dimension of life. We see her enthusiasm in the vibrant imagery she draws from her experience of the earth. She speaks of sun and wind and rain, clouds, crystal, and falling comets, tempests, thunderclaps and lightning. She calls God "the Sun in the interior of the soul", [illuminating] every corner of our being. When she prayed, Teresa loved to look at fields and flowers, "reading" from the book of nature. She loved to live near water, with good soil and gardens....

"Who could make known the majesty with which You, O God, reveal Yourself!" she cries out in one of her spontaneous prayers.

When **we** have trouble praying, Teresa recommends that we turn to nature, which awakens us, reminding us of the Creator. She writes, "Go to some place where you can see the sky, and walk up and down a little."

Teresa mentions the mystery of water, the sparrowhawk, and the tiny ant. Any of these is enough for a whole period of prayer, immersing us in the wonder and wisdom of God. What would happen, she wonders, if we knew "the property of every [being]?"

For Teresa, the spiritual life is like "bees making honey", "silkworms spinning their cocoons", "fish swimming in a running stream".

Teresa's favorite nature image was water. She speaks lavishly of flowing springs, pools, wells, and fountains, rivers, waves, and the sea, urging us to irrigate our hearts with the waters of Life.

Hear what Teresa is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

~ Moment of Silence ~

Gospel Acclamation

Mass of Light



Gospel

Mt 6:25-26abcd, 7-29, 31, 33-34

God is with You!

And also with You!

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew

Glory to you, O God.

Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet our Loving God feeds them...

Can any of you, by worrying, add a single moment to your life?

Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wildflowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them...

So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' Rather, seek first the kin-dom [of God] and justice, and all these things will be given you besides.

So, do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will worry about itself. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel of God.

Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.

Homily

Suzie Knapp

Prayers of the People 10-04-2026

Feasts of St Francis of Assisi & St Teresa of Avila

The wisdom of the native people of North America teaches us that the Earth does not belong to us; we belong to the Earth. In Jesus, the Creator God of all shares our earthiness with us. With the humility and dignity this conveys, let us ask for all that we and all creation need.

Our response: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

All: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

That, learning from our brother Francis of Assisi, we exercise our deepest humanness by naming and caring for Creation, in the face of today's many challenges ... we pray ...

All: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

That in our humility – our Earthiness – we approach each member of the human family as our co-equal, seeing there the kin-dom that is already among us... we pray ...

All: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

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: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

That facing the immensity of the dark and star-filled cosmos we listen for the voice of God, hear God's ever-creating song, and open ourselves to The Presence ... we pray ...

All: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

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: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

In special appreciation for those creatures of the Earth who share our homes and our lives with us, and who speak to us in a distinctive way of the simple realities of life and love ... we pray as Jesus said we should ...

All: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

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: Praise to You! Laudato Si!!

(After the final "Praise to You! Laudato Si!", there will be no concluding presider's prayer. Offertory Song will begin.)

Offertory Song: "Nada Te Turbe"

Prayer of St Teresa of Avila (Taizé music)

Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Quien a Dios tiene, nada le falta.
Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Solo Dios basta.

Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

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 open our eyes to the joy of companionship.

We offer these gifts for the good of all and in gratitude for Earth's abundance.

Prayer with Our Gifts

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 Spirit. We wonder at the cosmos, we praise You for Creation's goodness, we thank you for the beauty of Earth. You are revealed in and through Creation, your first incarnation. We give our thanks that we, too, are blessed to participate in your web of life. And so, we join with all, everywhere, throughout time, in singing our unending song of praise:

Sanctus

Adina Meyer, RCWP

Holy, Holy! The universe shines with your glory!

Hosanna! Hosanna, hosanna to our God!

Blessed are all who come in the name of our God most high!

Hosanna, hosanna to our God of Love.

Voice 1 (online)

Your presence is revealed in and through 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, who preached good news to the poor, proclaimed release to captives, gave sight to those who could not see, liberated those oppressed, and announced the year of Jubilee.

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

Presider:

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

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 it to them saying: "Take this all of you and drink. This is my life-blood, the cup of love. Do this in memory of me."

Presider: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: *[Sung]*

Adina Meyer, RCWP



Je - sus Christ is the Bread of Life! The Spi - rit re-fresh-es with Liv-ing Wa - ter!

Voice 3: Let Your Spirit come upon all leaders, secular and religious, that they abandon divisive politics and work for the common good. Make them faithful guardians of Earth, on whose fruits we rely.

Voice 4: Help us counter efforts that put profit and greed before human need, the need of all beings, reverence for Creation, and science. Help us abandon our harmful habits and adopt new practices, however small, that heal the earth and support the whole Earth family.

Voice 5: Take away all that divides us. Keep before us the Greater Reality that unites us. Through Your Spirit make us instruments of Your peace.

Voice 6: Be with all who are sick. Be with all who suffer. Be with all who have died and gone before us into the embrace of Cosmic Mystery.

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.
We offer our prayer of praise, this day and forever.*

Great Amen

Adina Meyer, RCWP

Amen, Amen, Amen; Amen, Amen, Amen!

Prayer of Jesus [Sung]

Loreen Wilhelmy

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 sung version.

***Loving God, in whom is heaven;
May your name be honored everywhere.
May your kin-dom come,
the desire of your heart for the world be done...
in us, by us, and through us.
Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us. Enable us to forgive others.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For you reign in the pow'r that comes from love, which is your glory,
forever and ever. Amen.***

Sign of Peace

May the peace of the Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another – and the whole world – a sign of God's peace.

Lamb of God [Sung]

Angrisano, Mass of a Joyful Heart

***Jesus Christ, You call us to the gospel of hope, O Jesus the Christ.
Jesus Christ, You call us to the gospel of love, O Jesus the Christ.
Jesus Christ, You call us to the gospel of peace, Grant us peace.***

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

We are happy and blessed to share at this table.

*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: "Where Your Treasure Is"

Haugen

*Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be.
All that you possess will never set you free.
Seek the things that last; come and learn from me.
Where your treasure is, your heart shall be.*

What do you gain from all your worry,
what you should eat or what to wear?
There is no peace in stress or hurry.
Do you not know that you are held within God's care?

Look at the ravens high above you.
They do not work their whole life through,
and yet God feeds them and protects them.
So how much more will God protect and care for you?

Behold the lilies in their splendor.
In grace and beauty are fully dressed,
and yet so soon their bloom is faded.
So how much more will those who look to God be blessed?

Prayer after Communion

...Amen.

Closing Blessing

Let the church say... Amen.

Sending Forth

Our mass has ended. Our service continues.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Song: "Sing Out, Earth and Skies!"

Haugen

Come, O God of all the earth; come to us, O Righteous One.
Come and bring our love to birth, as we sing Creation's song.

Refrain:

***Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you.
Raise your joyful cries, Dance to the life around you.***

Come, O God of wind and flame; fill the earth with righteousness.
Teach us all to sing Your name; may our lives your love confess. **[R]**

Come, O Justice, come, O Peace; come and shape our hearts anew.
Come and make oppression cease; bring us all to life in you. **[R]**

We are grateful to have shared in worship this evening.

At Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community, we have embraced the dream of a transformed Roman Catholic Church. To underscore our commitment, we support a full-time paid priest (or equivalent) 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

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Some song lyrics have been adapted to align with our commitment to inclusive language. No copyright infringement is intended.

This Worship Aid draws inspiration from many sources, including enfleshed.com, Laudato Si', past MMACC liturgies (written by Nancy Corran, Kori Pacyniak, Joe Stewart, Jane Via & MMACC's liturgy committee), and other sources.