

# Contemporary Rosary

Jane Via and Jackie Davis<sup>1</sup>

## Presider's Script

**Voice 1:** Oliva

**Voice 2** Jackie

**Jane:** Opening Prayer:

**We come together on this Good Friday to pray the rosary. As we remember the evil which led to Jesus' unjust death, we focus on resisting the normalization of evil in our time. We strive to live out our faith to the fullest. Prayer can help expose evil for what it really is. Our faith, love and courage in the Divine Center of the Universe grabs the attention of all who witness it. This is possible for all of us, right here and right now, one moment at a time. We pray together for these intentions.**

**Voice 1:** First Intention (Mystery): *Prayer for our planet Earth.*

Breath of Life, we ask for the very survival of our planet earth. Our previous vision, set in prayer was: "as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be".

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<sup>1</sup> Via's personal relationship with Mary was fraught with challenges as she struggled with traditional theology and language for Mary. Over many years, Via has sought language, based in contemporary Catholic theology, for the most basic Catholic prayers, including the Hail Mary and the Glory Be. The idea to connect the traditional rosary with contemporary events by centering the Mysteries on the critical issues of our/one's time is hers. One strand of contemporary Catholic theology recognizes Mary as the maternal face of Holy Mystery. As such, her role extends beyond intercession to reality of Holy Mystery itself. The rendering of the Hail Mary and Glory Be is Via's, as is the idea of "personalizing" the Hail Mary. For example, instead of "Pray for us now and at the hour of our death", which often remains meaningful, one might also pray "Be with (name), the child of my womb....".

"The Lord's Prayer" or "The Prayer Jesus Taught Us", as Joseph Stewart of San Diego, CA taught her to call it, is rendered by an unknown writer. It has been used in the parish founded by Via and Rod Stephens for more than a decade and put to music by Rus Kosits. Efforts to discover the writer have been unsuccessful. Via welcomes any information a reader may have and would gladly acknowledge their identity were it known.

This version of the rosary was implemented in January of 2020 to help parishioners deal with their experience of helplessness, sorrow and grief with respect to the policies the U.S. was taking under leaders claiming to be Christian. Jane sought assistance from Jackie Davis, who also struggled with the language of the traditional rosary, in its preparation. Davis composed the introductory prayers for the Mysteries based on the sources she cites. Her voice and style of praying the rosary helped shape its slow, soulful pace.

Because this rosary is meant to be prayed slowly, each word spoken with conscious attention, we pray 5 Hail Mary's instead of 10. This enables the rosary to be prayed, collectively, in a half hour, approximately the same period of time the traditional version is usually prayed.

We have learned from science that there is no forever, creation is always in process, the Earth will not always exist. Had we acknowledged this sooner, perhaps our Earth would not be on the path to extinction.

Wrap us in your power of intention and action, that we may protect and heal our planet's precious life from the depths of the oceans to the heights of our skies. We pray...**Amen**

### 5 Hail Marys<sup>2</sup>

**Voice 2:** Hail Mary, Grace Incarnate, maternal face of Holy Mystery, blessed are you among women and blessed is Jesus, the child of your womb...

**Voice 1:** Holy Mary, truly our sister, Mother of the Cosmos, help us protect our planet Earth from further human desecration, devastation and destruction. **Amen.**

### Glory Be

**Voice 2:** Glory be to the Source of all that is, everlasting Wisdom, eternal Word and Sophia (or Holy)<sup>3</sup> Spirit...as it was in the beginning, is now and will be...**Amen.**

### **Voice 1:** Prayer of Jesus

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 power that comes from Love, which is Your glory, now and always...**Amen.**<sup>4</sup>

**Voice 2: Second Intention (Mystery): *Prayer for our Country, the Survival of Democracy, and Peace.*** (Taken loosely from *JesuitResource.org.*)

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<sup>2</sup> Hail Mary (Basic Version): Hail Mary, Grace Incarnate, maternal face of Holy Mystery, blessed are you among women and blessed is Jesus, the child of your womb. Holy Mary, truly our sister, Mother of the Cosmos, (be with us now and at the hour of our death) (altered depending on the intention of the individual offering the prayer).

<sup>3</sup> Contemporizing ancient prayers requires attention to the prayer's rhythm or cadence. The more similar the rhythm to the traditional rhythm, the more easily the praying person adjusts to the new words, especially if they have no knowledge of the New Cosmology/ contemporary Catholic theology. While a feminist approach favors the use of Sophia, some may find the rhythm, or cadence, favors the use of Holy since Sophia involves 3 syllables and Holy only 2 syllables. Please choose Sophia or Holy as you prefer.

<sup>4</sup> Again, the author of this version of the Prayer of Jesus is unknown. Should you know who created it, please contact us at [MMACC.org](http://MMACC.org)

Holy Life, we ask for wisdom to see the damage being done to our democracy by those who would mislead, deflect, disrupt, and deny the humanity of others.

We ask for the courage to learn, to witness, to speak up; to take daily actions as caring citizens, and to protect the right of all to vote and be heard.

Help us connect to our fellow citizens and commit to their well-being.

We pray for all peaceful protesters, immigrants and citizens, especially those who have died in an effort to protect their immigrant neighbors and friends.

We also pray for the people of Iran, that our country will withdraw from that conflict, cease threats to destroy Iranian civilization and end our war against the Iranian people. We pray for peace and an end to violence in Ukraine, Gaza, and countries in Africa also suffering genocide and displacement of their populations. *Amen.*

### 5 Hail Marys

**Voice 1:** Hail Mary, Grace Incarnate, maternal face of Holy Mystery, blessed are you among women and blessed is Jesus, the child of your womb.

**Voice 2:** Holy Mary, truly our sister, Mother of the Cosmos, help us protect democracy in our country, democracy everywhere, now and always, as we pray for peace...*Amen.*

### Glory Be

**Voice 1:** Glory be to the Source of all that is, everlasting Wisdom, eternal Word and Sophia (or Holy) Spirit...as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be...*Amen.*

### Prayer of Jesus:

**Voice 2:** 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 power that comes from Love, which is Your glory, now and always...*Amen.*

**Voice 1: Third Intention: Prayer for All Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers everywhere and, especially, for those currently living in our country or along our borders.**

Divine Love, we ask your blessing on, and entrust to You, all those who have made the journey to another land, enduring fear, uncertainty and danger to reach a place of safety and hope.

We ask you to accompany them through the dangers that chase them from their home countries, the dangers they encounter on the journey, the dangers near the camps along the border and the dangers to those who are incarcerated and abused by our own government.

We ask your tenderness and protection for them; and, in caring for all immigrants, may we seek a world where no one is forced to leave their home, where all can live in freedom, dignity and peace.

Finally, we pray for those refugees, asylum seekers or immigrants who have died this year in the custody of our government...May they find a permanent home in the womb of your Holy Love. **Amen.**

#### 5 Hail Marys

**Voice 2:** Hail Mary, Grace Incarnate, maternal face of Holy Mystery, blessed are you among women and blessed is Jesus, the child of your womb.

**Voice 1:** Holy Mary, truly our sister, Mother of the Cosmos, be with all immigrants and refugees now and at the hour of their death. Help us to love them; protect them from all violence and injustice; defend them and console them, now and always. **Amen.**

#### Glory Be

**Voice 2:** Glory be to the Source of all that is, everlasting Wisdom, eternal Word and Sophia (Holy) Spirit...As it was in the beginning, is now and will be...**Amen.**

**Voice 1:** Prayer of Jesus.

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 power that comes from Love, which is Your glory, now and always...**Amen.**

**Voice 2: Fourth Intention (Mystery): *Prayer for LGBTQIA+ people; for women as a class; and for oppressed people of all genders everywhere.***

*(Taken loosely from New Ways Ministry.)*

Consoling Presence, we ask you for sanctuary for those in the LGBTQIA+ community and for women who feel fear due to many national protections previously and recently put in place - and now withdrawn- as well as the threat of others to be retracted. We especially ask for sanctuary for and acceptance of trans people, and for recognition of their value and goodness.

We ask for sanctuary for all those who ever wondered if they were truly made in the image and likeness of God because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

We ask this blessing of knowing that we all are fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image. **Amen.**

### 5 Hail Marys

**Voice 1:** Hail Mary, Grace Incarnate, maternal face of Holy Mystery, blessed are you among women and blessed is Jesus, the child of your womb.

**Voice 2:** Holy Mary, truly our sister, Mother of the Cosmos, be with LGBTQIA+ people, women as a class, and oppressed people of all genders, now and at the hour of their death. Help us to love them. Protect them from all violence and injustice. Defend and console them, now and always. **Amen.**

### Glory Be

**Voice 1:** Glory be to the Source of all that is, everlasting Wisdom, eternal Word and Sophia (Holy) Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be...**Amen.**

**Voice 2:** Prayer of Jesus:

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 power that comes from Love, which is Your glory, now and always...**Amen.**

**Voice 1:** **Fifth Intention: *Our personal prayers for our families and friends as well as prayers weighing most heavily on our hearts but not included in the Mysteries above.*** All those who would like to share an intention are invited to do so.

*(Pause for participants' prayers...when appropriate, begin the Hail Marys.)*

### Five Hail Marys

**Voice 2:** Hail Mary, Grace Incarnate, maternal face of Holy Mystery, blessed are you among women and blessed is Jesus, the child of your womb.

**Voice 1:** Holy Mary, truly our sister, Mother of the Cosmos, be with us now and at the hour of our death. **Amen.**

### Glory Be

**Voice 2:** Glory be to the Source of all that is, everlasting Wisdom, eternal Word and Sophia (Holy) Spirit. A it was in the beginning, is now and will be...**Amen.**

### **Voice 1:** Prayer of Jesus

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 power that comes from Love, which is Your glory, now and always...**Amen.**

### **Jane:** **Concluding Blessing:** "When it Feels As If the World is Ending"

*From Abbey of the Arts Website*

Holy Ground of Love, the world so often feels as if it is ending,  
With news of wars raging, children dying, fires burning, floods rising ---  
So much suffering, so much cruelty.

Our hearts feel like trees rotting away, our throats feel full of gravel,  
Our guts a boulder, our eyes swollen with tears.  
With the future tangled with so much loss, it all feels impossible.

Be with all those who are suffering because of injustice, loss and greed.  
Ease their pain and grant them a vision of new life.

Bless us with clarity to remember that Your love is the foundation.  
Bless us with guidance to be vessels of compassion and peace.  
Connect us to kindred souls laboring for a more beautiful world,  
so we know we are not doing this alone.  
Turn the hearts of those in power toward compassion and generosity.

We don't know if what we are called to do will solve anything.  
All we know is we must try.  
Bless us in the trying, the grieving, the hoping, we pray... **Amen.**