

Mary of Magdala Inclusive Catholic Community  
November 28, 2021, 10 a.m. CT, (11 a.m. ET, 12 p.m. AT, 9 a.m. MT, 8 a.m. PT)  
First Sunday of Advent - C

## **WE GATHER AS COMMUNITY**

Welcome/Introductions:

Acknowledgement of Territory:

Centering Chime:

Gathering:

**P:** Dear Family of Faith, come: Be gathered in the heart of the Divine Holy One,  
Creator of all that is: + Source of Life, Love Incarnate and Abiding Wisdom.

**All: Amen.**

Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath: (E. Hays, adapted)

**VI:** Divine Source of All Energy and Light,  
the ancients saw the sun as a great fire wheel rolling across the sky.



wheel of green,  
be a symbol of the sun  
and its greenness a sign of life  
in the midst of winter darkness.  
May the candles that burn brightly upon it  
remind us of your Son, Jesus,  
who is the light of the world.

May our Advent wreath, this small

Grant, O God/de, that our Advent wreath be  
a sign of faith in a world grown cold with disbelief,  
a sign of hope in a time of gloom and despair  
a sign of peace where there is anger and violence  
and a flaming image of love in a winter of mistrust and hate.  
May your blessing, + Source of Light, Son of Glory, Spirit of Love  
be upon our Advent wreath and upon us all.

**All: Amen.**

*(Sprinkle wreath with blessed water and light the 1<sup>st</sup> candle while we join our opening song.)*

**Opening Song:** *(Please be on mute for all songs)*

**Advent Gathering Song** - James J. Chepponis, b. 1956; © 1995, GIA Publications, Inc.

**Come, come Emmanuel, Come Emmanuel,**

(cantor ONLY) 1) For the Lord of Creation will...*come...*

2) For the angel proclaims He will....*come....*

3) Oh the Son of Mary will.... *Come...*

Prayer of Wholeness: Adapted from Joyce Rupp, *Out of the Ordinary*

**P:** God of all those who yearn for a glimmer of assurance on the long journey home to you, come!  
Come with a vast storehouse of renewed dreams, hopes, and peacefulness.

**V2:** God of hope, come! Enter into my memory and remind me often of the yearning of the people  
of history. Stir up stories of how the ancestors hung on to your promises, how they stole hope  
from tiny glimmers about you, passed on from age to age. Help me to hear the loud, crying  
voices of the prophets who proclaimed that a new age would dawn.

**All: Bless us in our waiting.**

**V2:** God of hope, come! Enter into this heart of mine which often loses itself in self, missing the  
message of your encouragement because I am so entangled in the web of my own whirl of life.  
Enable me to not lose sight of the power of your presence or the truth of your consolation.

**All: Bless us in our waiting.**

**V2:** God of hope, come! Enter into this Advent season with the grace of joy and laughter. Fill faces  
with smiles of delight and voices with sounds of pleasure. Let this gift come from deep within.  
Replenish all with the joyful blessings that only your peace can bring.

**All: Bless us in our waiting.**

**P:** Most Holy One, you continually call to us in the depths of our hearts to abide in you, to correct  
the wayward direction of our lives so that we stay on the way you lay out for us:  
the path of truth and justice, mercy, love and peace.

- Open our eyes to the needs of those around us in our families and communities, espe-  
cially our Indigenous relatives as we seek to come together in a good way for truth and recon-  
ciliation.

- May we be mindful of our duty of care for creation: earth, air, and water; and all crea-  
tures you have made to bless it as manifestation of your abundant life.

- Show us ways we can stand with those who are marginalized in church and society  
and make a positive difference in the world today.

- and move us to respond with a generosity of heart that mirrors your unbounded love for all.

This is our prayer today and always, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**P:** Let us listen to the Word of Sacred Scripture.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 33:12-16 (CCL)

**V3:** A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

Thus says God: "In this place and in all its towns, now ruined, sheltering neither people nor animals, once again there will be pastures for the shepherds to rest their flocks. In the towns of the hill country, of the Shephelal and of the Negev, in the land of Benjamin, in the places surrounding Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks will once again pass under the hand of the shepherd who counts them.

"The days are coming when I will bestow on Israel and Judah all the blessings I promised them. In those days, and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from the line of David and Bathsheba, who will bring justice and integrity to the land. In those days, Judah will be safe and Jerusalem will be secure. They will call the land, 'God is our Justice.'"

The Word of Jeremiah, as recorded by his scribe.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** (Please be on mute for all songs)

**Ready the Way of the Lord** - Bob Hurd, b. 1950, © 1986, OCP Publications.

Ready the way of the Lord. Ready the way of the Lord.  
A voice cries out in the wilderness, ready the way of the Lord.

Let every valley be filled. Let every valley be filled.  
Let every mountain be humbled. Let every valley be filled.

Refrain: Here is your God, coming with your vindication.

Look and behold the saving power of God.

Desert and wasteland will bloom. Desert and wasteland will bloom.  
Glory and splendor will fill the land. Desert and wasteland will bloom.

Those who are blind will then see. Those who are deaf will then hear.  
Those who are lame will then leap for joy. Those who are mute will then sing.

Refrain: Here is your God, coming with your vindication.

Look and behold the saving power of God.

Strengthen the ones who are weak. Strengthen the ones who are weak.  
Say to the frightened have courage. Strengthen the ones who are weak.

Refrain: Here is your God, coming with your vindication.

Look and behold the saving power of God. The saving power of God.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (CCL)

**V4:** A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Just now Timothy has returned to us from you, bringing us the good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us and long to see us as we long to see you. Because of this, we have been reassured about you, beloved, through your faith in our every distress and affliction. For we now live, if you stand firm in the Christ.

How can we thank God enough for you, for all the joy we feel before God on your account? Night and day, we pray earnestly to see you in person and enlarge the dimensions and depth of your faith.

May our loving God, our Mother and Father, and Jesus, the Christ, direct our steps back to you. May God make you increase in love and abound in love for one another, and for all, just as we have increased in love and abound in love for you. May God strengthen your hearts to persevere in holiness until the coming of Jesus the Christ with all the holy ones.

The Word of the Apostle Paul.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** *(Please be on mute for all songs)*

**Prepare the way of the Lord (Canon)** – Text: Taize Community, 1984, Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994, © Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Prepare the way of the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord.  
And all people shall see The salvation of our God.

Gospel: Luke 1:5-25

**V5:** A Reading from the Good News attributed to Luke.

In the days when Herod ruled Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron and Elisheba, and her name was Elizabeth. Both Zechariah and Elizabeth lived just lives, following all the commandments and decrees of their God. But they had no children, because they could not conceive; and both were getting on in years.

Once, when Zechariah was serving as priest before God, and his priestly division was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of God and offer incense. At the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

Then there appeared to him an angel, a messenger from God, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the figure, he was terrified. Fear overwhelmed him; but the messenger said, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a child, a son, and together you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness. Many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in God’s eyes. He must never drink wine or

strong drink. Even before his birth, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit and turn many Israelites to their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah, he will go forth turning the hearts of parents to their children, and converting many to the wisdom of justice in order to prepare people for the coming of God's presence in their midst."

Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is also getting on in years." The messenger replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. I have been sent to speak to you and to bring this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting outside for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them, but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned home.

After those days, Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, was found to be with child. For five months she kept her pregnancy to herself, saying, "This can only be God's doing. God has shown us favor and taken away the disgrace we endured among our people."

The Gospel of Our God.

**All: Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.**

Homily & Reflection, Breakout Rooms

Profession of Faith: (Iona Creed)

**V6:** We believe that God is present



in the darkness before dawn;

in the waiting and uncertainty  
where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God  
who sits down in our midst  
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond a safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability  
and onto the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks,  
live powerfully,  
and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit  
for God's new community of hope.

**All: Amen.**

Prayers of the People

**P:** In our Advent waiting, Source of All Good, we turn to you and ask that you listen to our prayers.

**V7:** The days are coming when all your promises will be fulfilled to us, your faithful people. For unity among our Catholic church (as well as for all Christian churches), that we might in return fulfill our promises to you, we pray . . .

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer.**

**V7:** In your time, a righteous branch from the line of David sprang up and you brought justice and righteousness in every land. We pray for our world, that your peace be manifest in every corner of the earth, we pray . . . .

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer.**

**V7:** For the parts of the world undergoing distress due to climate change (today we think especially of the West and East coasts of Canada, who have had water-related natural disasters), for healing of the earth and of the people, we pray . . .

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer.**

**V7:** You sent the Messiah to be born of our sister Mary. For all those who are expecting children especially during this Advent time — parents, siblings, extended families, and friends — for patience while waiting and for safe and healthy babies, we pray . . .

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer.**

**V7:** For those we love who are undergoing illnesses, whether of emotional, spiritual, or physical natures, that they find healing and comfort in knowing that you are Emmanuel, God/de-With-Us, we pray . . .

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer.**

**V7:** For the delegation of Indigenous people preparing to go to Rome to visit with Pope Francis, that they travel safely and find comfort and assurance in his pastoral care for them, we pray . . .

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer.**

**V7:** We lift up the prayer requests entered in Chat, and all those we hold in the silence of our hearts...(pause).

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer.**

**P:** We know that you do hear and answer our prayers, though maybe not when and how we wish. Open our hearts to hear your answers whatever they may be. They are your gift to us. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*(We lift together our gifts of bread and wine)*

**P:** Blessed are you, Most Holy One: through your goodness we have received the bread and wine we offer you: fruit of the earth and symbol of all the labours and all the suffering of the world. They will become for us the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing.

**All: God/de of Life and Love, / receive these gifts we offer you / in praise and thanksgiving / for the good of all your people.**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER - Jay Murnane (adapted)**

**V8:** Source of All That Is, we seek you in a cold season, when the earth, is resting and preparing for new life. We are grateful for crisp air, skies sparkling with a million stars, the wonder of snowfall upon the land. We are grateful as our earth circles towards the winter solstice when the time of light grows longer each day. Like the earth, we long for new life and hopeful beginnings

**V9:** During this season of Advent, we recognize that you have made us capable of bringing forth justice, like a rising sun. This is the time of the pregnant woman, filled with life and hope powerful enough to topple structures of oppression. With all creation and all the energies of the universe, we sing your praise:

Seasonal Mass Parts: (Melody: David Haas, Adaptations: Jacklyne Faragher-Guimond, Gerard Guimond, 2021)

**Holy, Holy:** *(Please be on mute for all songs)*

*Intro* :| Holy.....Holy.....most holy are You :|  
The cosmos proclaims Your glory.  
All creation stands in awe.  
Word-made-Flesh gives us new vision,  
Open hearts to sing Your praise.. ....*Ant.*

**V10:** We thank you that the good news is a simple message, meant for all of us, and written in the marrow of our bones and the depths of our hearts: we are your children, we are like you, we are all one.

We thank you for those in times past who believed this good news, and lived what they believed. Blessed are the prophets of ancient times and every visionary who insisted on a better future that would break through the deception, disaster and broken promises of the age in which they lived.

**V11:** Blessed is Elizabeth who lived in righteousness and trusted the saving power of God. Blessed is Miriam, who believed that she could birth a new beginning for the earth by opening herself up to the unbelievable. And blessed is her child Jesus, who felt the sorrows of humankind in the nerve endings of his soul, and responded with deep and tender compassion.

**V12:** As he spent his days with a small circle of friends in the work of healing and making peace, so he spent one of the last nights of his life with them, to celebrate the ancient festival of Passover.

On the night before he faced his own death, Jesus sat at table with his companions and friends. He reminded them of all that he taught them, and to fix that memory clearly with them, he bent down and washed their feet.

**P:** When he returned to his place, he took bread, gave thanks and offered it to them saying:

**All: Take this bread and eat it; It is my very self.** (pause)

**P:** He then raised a cup of blessing, spoke the grace and offered the wine saying:

**All: Take and drink of the covenant / made new again through my life, /  
poured out for you and for everyone / that all may be one. /  
Whenever you remember me like this, / I am among you.** (pause)

**Anamnesis:** *(Please be on mute for all songs)*

Holy.....Holy.....most holy are You.

**V13:** We give thanks for our tradition, which is a living history born of the love of creator and



creation. We join ourselves with that tradition, as the visionaries and healers and peacemakers of our own time in history. We also celebrate the many creative traditions which guide and form human beings, and we are grateful that there are many paths to wisdom and life.

**V14:** Each Advent the world holds new horror and desolation, and we make a place in this prayer for every anguished scream and hopeless silence in so many places throughout this earth, and right here among us.

**V15:** We are grateful for the gift of your Spirit, always drawing beauty and balance out of chaos. And like Jesus . . . Standing where he stood,  
and for what he stood,  
and with whom he stood,  
we are united in your Spirit,  
and worship you with our lives,

(lift the bread and wine)

**P:** For it is through him, and with him, and in him, all glory is yours All Loving God/de.

**Acclamation:** *(Please be on mute for all songs)*

Holy.....Holy....most holy are You  
Holy.....Holy....A – MEN, A – MEN.

**P:** We pray the prayer of Jesus:

**V16:** Source of all Life, you are within, around and among us.

We celebrate your many names.

Your wisdom come; your will be done, unfolding from the depths within us.

Each day you give us all that we need.

You remind us of our limits and we let go.

You support us in our power, and we act with courage.

For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us,  
and the celebration among us, now and forever. Amen.

*\*Adapted by Miriam Therese Winter\**

**Prayer for Peace:** *(Please be on mute for all songs)*

Lamb of God/de, You are compassion

Lamb of God/de, You are one of us.

Lamb of God/de, give us Your longing

To be messengers of peace.

[; Holy.....Holy....most holy are You (2x) ;]

**P:** Let us offer one another a sign or greeting of peace.

**Chime**

Invitation to the Table: (Hold up bread and wine)

**P:** Filled with the peace we have shared, and in communion with all that is,  
all that was, and all that will become, come and share at this table.

**All: Jesus, by your word you transform our lives. We are happy to be called to this feast.**

**P:** Receive who you are: The Body and Blood of Christ

**All: Amen.**

**Communion Meditation:** *(Please be on mute for all songs)*

**People of the Night** – David Haas, b. 1957. © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

- 1) We are your people of the night, we long to see your newborn light. Distant glimmer; rising from afar. We await You, holy morning star.
- 2) For in our winter, we are dead, lead us in hope to see ahead the springtime and the gift that is to come. Come and save us, be God/de's only Son
- 3) You wait for us, You are our choice..the living Word; the saving voice. Break the silence, listen to our call. Be our answer, new life for us all.
- 4) Give us new faith, give us the joy, as we await your Son, the Lord. In our presence, child born of Your breath. Saviour Brother; life that shatters death.

**Communion Antiphon:**

**All: Come, O Longing of Our Hearts. Abide with us forever.**

**Prayer after Communion:**

**V17:** God of hope, nourished and refreshed by your word, your bread of life, and your prophets, we pause in gratitude for what we have been given. You are the morning star and great mystery in which we live and live in to. May we be transformed by your holy presence in our lives. May we be your prophetic presence in the world today. We make our prayer this day and always, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**WE GO TO BE WITNESSES**

**Announcements:** ...

**Blessing/ Dismissal:**

**P:** *(We lift our eyes in longing for the dawning of a new day.)*

May we continue to be the face of God to each other and the world.

May we call each other to extravagant generosity!

May our light shine for all to see, and may our name be a blessing in our time!

**All: Amen.**

**P:** This Eucharist is ended. We go in the peace of Christ to be his compassionate presence to all the world.

**All: Amen.**

**Closing Song:** *(Please be on mute for all songs)*

**In the Day of the Lord,** Based on Is. 2, 25, 41.

M. D. Ridge, b. 1938, © 1992, 1993 OCP, Publications.

Refrain:

In the day of the Lord, the sun will shine like the dawn of eternal day.

All creation will rise to dance and sing the glory of the Lord!

1. And on that day will justice triumph, on that day will all be free:  
free from want, free from fear, free to live! Refrain

2. Then shall the nations throng together to the mountain of the Lord:  
they shall walk in the light of the Lord! Refrain

3. For Israel shall be delivered, and the desert lands will bloom.  
Say to all, "Do not fear. Here is your God!" Refrain (x2)

*You are welcome to stay and visit as you like.  
Make a deep bow in taking leave.*

Music provided by ***Singing to Beat Hell***: Jackie and Gerry Guimond, Ft. Frances, ON.  
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