

Our Lady of Guadalupe Tonantzin Community Feast Day
In honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 12th - Year B



"Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything."

(Words of Our Lady to Juan Diego)

Territorial Acknowledgement

Opening Hymn: *Magnificent* (David Haas)

GREETING

Vikki: In the name of God, our mother/ father, and of Jesus Christ Sophia, and of the Holy Spirit, our liberator. Amen.

Vikki: My relatives, God is with you!

All: **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Vikki

Our Lady of Guadalupe and Tonantzin

Voice 1 - *Tonantzin* is an Aztec goddess who was worshipped as a Mother Goddess, the patron of childbirth, and was identified with the moon and the focus of large-scale pilgrimages. Her cult is ancient and as a goddess of fertility of the earth she was also regarded as a goddess of human fertility. She was also the one to decide the length of life. She was both the giver of life and the one who took it away. Aztecs traveled from the cities and rural areas from all over the empire to Tepeyac Hill to hold sacrifices and feasts in honour of the mother goddess.

Voice 2 - *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, bears the titles Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas. Her feast day, December 12th, is Mexico's most important religious holiday. On this day people from all over Mexico travel to the chapel Tepayac Hill in Mexico City, where the mother of Jesus is said to have appeared before an Indian peasant named Juan Diego back in 1531. In pre-conquest times, Tepeyac had housed a temple to the earth and fertility goddess, Tonantzin, the Great Mother, who, like Our Blessed Mother Mary, was associated with the moon.

OPENING PRAYER

Vikki: In honour of the Divine Feminine, we pray: Mother of the Light, may you reign as a Source of Wisdom within our souls. Be present for us now and in every moment of eternity. Take us by the hand and lead us to the Birthing Light of God within us, for there shall we find our purpose in life revealed. We pray, Holy Mother, that you might part your veil, that we might see you in all your forms, and perchance glimpse into the In-between to behold your True Essence. May we, like Mary Mother of Jesus, live as prophetic witnesses to the Gospel as we work for justice, peace and equality in our world. We ask this through Mary's child, our brother Jesus. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading:

Voice 3: A Reading from the
Book of the Great Revealing (Revelation)¹

11:19 Then I looked and saw that the way into Creator's sacred lodge in the spirit-world above was open. Inside the lodge the cedar box of the peace treaty came into view.

12:1 A great and mysterious omen was seen in the spirit-world above: a woman wearing the sun for her regalia, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a headdress of twelve stars. ²She was with child and cried out in agony as she was giving birth. ³Then another omen was seen in the spirit-world above: a great fiery-red sea serpent with seven heads and ten horns. On each of its seven heads it wore the headdress of a chief. ⁴With its tail the sea serpent reached up into the spirit-world above and pulled down a third of all the stars and threw them down on the land. Then the fiery-red

¹ M. Wildman, Terry. First Nations Version (pp. 459-460). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

sea serpent, wanting to swallow up her child as soon as it was born, placed itself in front of the woman, waiting for her to give birth.

⁵The woman gave birth to a son, a male child, the one who holds an iron chief's staff to rule over all nations. And her child was taken up to the Great Spirit and to his seat of honor. ⁶The woman found safe passage into the desert wilderness, to the place Creator had prepared for her. There she would be fed and kept safe for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

^{10:1}Then I heard a voice thundering in the spirit-world above, saying, "The good road of the Great Spirit has finally arrived! This good road has the power to set us free and make us whole! The Chosen One has walked this good road to the end and has the right to bring it to us.

Voice 3: God's message comes down to us through the ages.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm:

Voice 4: O daughter, you are blessed by God.

All: O daughter, you are blessed by God.

Voice 4: 'O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all other women on earth; and blessed be Our God, the Great Revealing who created the heavens and the earth,

All: O daughter, you are blessed by God.

Voice 4: Your praise will never depart from the hearts of those who remember the power of God.

May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you,

All: O daughter, you are blessed by God.

Gospel

Voice 5: A reading from Shining Light Tells the Good Story (Gospel of Luke)²

All: Glory to you O God.

²⁶When six moons had passed, the Great Spirit sent the same spirit-messenger, Creator's Mighty One (Gabriel), to another small, out-of-the-way place in the hill country called Seed Planter Village (Nazareth). ²⁷There he appeared to a young virgin woman named Bitter Tears (Mary), who was promised in marriage to a man named He Gives Sons (Joseph), a descendant of the great chief Much Loved One (David).

²⁸Creator's Mighty One (Gabriel) said to her, "Greetings, highly favored one! You are close to the Great Spirit and greatly honored among women." ²⁹Bitter Tears (Mary) was deeply troubled by this greeting and wondered what the spirit-messenger would say. ³⁰"Do not fear," he comforted her, "for you have found goodwill in the eyes of the Great Mystery. ³¹You will be with child and give birth to a son. You will name him Creator Sets Free (Jesus)."

It seemed like time stood still, and all creation stopped to listen as the messenger continued to speak.

³²"He will be greatly honored, the Son of the One Above Us All. He will be a great chief like his ancestor Much Loved One (David) and will sit in his seat of honor. ³³He will always be chief over the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel). His chiefly guidance will never end."

Bitter Tears's (Mary's) voice trembled with emotion, and her eyes grew wide as she looked into the face of the spirit-messenger.

³⁴She asked, "How will this be, since I have never been with a man?"

² M. Wildman, Terry. First Nations Version (pp. 102-103). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

³⁵Creator's Mighty One (Gabriel) answered, "The Holy Spirit will spread his wings over you, and his great power from above will overshadow you. This holy child born to you will be the Son of the One Above Us All."

Then, to encourage her, ³⁶he said, "Your cousin Creator Is My Promise (Elizabeth), who was called barren one, is six moons with child. ³⁷See! There is nothing too hard for the Great Spirit."

She looked bravely into the face of the messenger.

³⁸"I am Creator's servant," she said with boldness. "Let it be for me just as you have said." Then Creator's chief spirit-messenger left her.

Voice 5: The good news of salvation!

All: Glory and praise to our saviour Jesus Christ!

Shared Reflection

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Vikki: Always mindful of the Creator's love and care for us, we ask our loving God who established the dance of creation, who marvelled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, to lead us to transform our lives and by our example transform the Church to reflect God's glory in creation.

After each intercession, the response is: **God, give us your love for the whole of Creation**

Voice 6: Creator God, you have generously blessed us with an abundance of gifts in this, your world. Help us to share in that generosity by living in a way that ensures that your gifts will continue to be available for future generations.

All: O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Voice 6: Creator God, we rejoice that, as human beings, we have been created in your image and likeness. But we also recognise that

humanity alone cannot adequately reflect you. The whole diversity of the earth is needed to give us even a glimpse of your wonder and greatness. Help us to live in a sustainable way so that this marvellous diversity is respected.

All: O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Voice 6: Creator God, we live in a world where some of us throw out food while others go to bed hungry; where some have the modern amenities of life at their disposal and others struggle to find drinking water. May we learn to share with one another and, in this way, come to share in your generosity to all.

All: O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation.

Voice 6: Creator God, the sun, the wind, and the waves are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life on earth. Help us to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all.

All: O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Voice 6: We pray for the United Nations, for all international, national and local leaders and for managers of companies, that they may be guided by your Spirit to make wise decisions about sources of sustainable energy for all and, guided to work to bring about peace for all instead of supporting wars because they gain profit from conflicts.

All: O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Voice 6: Creator God, You have blessed humankind with understanding, imagination and memory. Show us how to learn from past mistakes and to plan for the future creatively, peacefully, and responsibly.

All: O God, give us your love for the whole of Creation

Vikki: *Now please offer your own intentions for community, friends and whomever....*

Vikki: Let us pray: Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of Your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and

your work is ours. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives with you and with the Holy Spirit for ever. Amen

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Vikki: Blessed are you, O God of Abundance. Through your providence we offer this bread, which human hands have baked, it will become for us Holy Bread to nurture our lives.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Vikki: Blessed are you, O God of Delight. Through your providence, we offer this wine, fruit of the vine and labour of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Vikki: Nurturing God, we are united in this sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ in communion with Mary, who proclaimed God's power and mercy for the lowly and oppressed. Like Mary, First Disciple, may we live as prophetic witnesses to the Gospel. Like Mary, may we discover the liberating power of marginalized in our midst. Pray my friends that as we celebrate this breaking of bread and blessing of wine we accept more fully the mission of our Church by actively living our response to God's call.

All: May our gracious God accept these gifts for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good, and for the good of all our Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

Vikki: Graciously sanctify these gifts. O God, accept our offering and make the way we live our lives expressions of eternal thanksgiving to you.

Vikki: God dwells in you. **All: And also with you.**

Vikki: Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them up to God.**

Vikki: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Vikki: O loving God, we give you thanks and rejoice that in you we live and move and have our being. Each day you embrace us in the hope of unending joy with you. Your gift of the Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, is the promise of the sacred banquet of heaven where all will be one forever. With joyful praise in the presence of Holy Wisdom, in the company of the angels we glorify your blessed presence always with us.

Voice 7: Holy, Holy, Holy God,
God of wisdom and abundance.
Heaven and earth are full of your love.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are all who come in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

Vikki: God, we rejoice always and everywhere that your nurturing love reflects the womb-love of God. You are the fountain of all wisdom. Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy, so that they may become for us the Presence of Jesus, the Christ, dwelling among us.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said:

All: Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, Jesus took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his friends, and said:

Take this all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ Sophia, our love, has died,
Christ Sophia, our hope, is risen,
Christ Sophia, our glory, will come again.**

Voice 8: In memory of Jesus, our life and our love, we offer you, God, this nurturing bread, this sacred cup. We thank you that we stand in solidarity with the people of God and serve you. May we who share in this holy meal be blessed, broken and shared □ the Body of Christ Sophia, in loving service to all.

God, remember your precious people throughout the world, make us grow in love, together with Francis our pope, Jane and Michael, our bishops, and all God's people who serve your people in our community.

Voice 9: Remember all who are in need, all those who are sick and those who suffer. Remember all who rest in your loving, tender, embrace. May all the departed sing and dance for joy with you, our Creator, with Mary, and with the angels and saints forever.

Have mercy on us all; make us one with Mary, Mother of Jesus, our sister and friend, champion of the oppressed and witness to the Gospel, with the apostles, especially Mary of Magdala, Junia, Phoebe and all the holy people who have done your will throughout the ages. May we delight in your glory with our brother Jesus, the Risen Christ forever.

Vikki: Through Christ, With Christ and In Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is Yours, Holy God forever and ever. AMEN.

Adaptation of the Lord's Prayer

Voice 10: Our Father and Mother who is in us here on earth, holy is your name in the hungry who share their bread and their song. Your Kingdom come, which is a generous land flowing with milk and honey.

Let us do your will, standing up when all are sitting down, and raising our voice when all are silent.

You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn.

Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice, and for burying our dreams; for not sharing bread and wine, love and the

land, among us, now.

Don't let us fall into the temptation of shutting the door through fear, of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice, of taking up the same arms as the enemy. But deliver us from evil.

Give us the perseverance and the solidarity to look for love, even if the path has not yet been trodden, even if we fail; so we shall have known your Kingdom which is being built forever and ever. Amen.

THE SIGN OF PEACE

Vikki: Jesus, You said to your disciples, "My peace I leave you. My peace I give you." Look on the faith of all and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. Amen.

Vikki: May the peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Vikki: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

LITANY FOR THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Voice 11: Loving God, You call us to speak truth to power, have mercy on us.

Loving God, You call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice, have mercy on us.

Loving God, You call us to be your presence in the world. Grant us peace.

Vikki: This is Jesus, who gives wisdom and abundant life to us and to our world. All are invited to the banquet of love.

All: We are the Body of Christ Sophia.

Communion Hymn

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Vikki: Loving God, may this Eucharist in which we share Christ's healing love deepen our oneness with you and with one another. May we reflect, like Mary, your liberating, mothering love for all. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Mary's Child, the Christ Sophia of the Ages. **ALL: Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITE

Vikki: Christ Sophia is with you

All: and also with you.

BLESSING

(everyone please extend your hands in mutual blessing)

Vikki: May our nurturing God bless all gathered here in the Name of the Creator, in the Name of Mary's Child, and in the Name of the Spirit as we minister to one another as the people of God. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Vikki: This service has ended, go in the peace of Christ and let our service begin!

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn - Our Lady of Guadalupe
Carlene Thissen

VERSE 1 and 2:

Way down in Mexico,
a very long time ago
Lived an Indian peasant named Juan Diego
At dawn the birds' chorus,
announced a vision so glorious,
The mother of Jesus, in sunbeams she glowed.

She said, "I want a church, you see,
built here to honor me,
Go tell the Bishop, my sweet Juanito,"
"Right here on this bleak spot,
known as Mount Tepeyac"
She spoke in his dialect, "Now you must go."

REFRAIN:

Take my message to the Bishop
Juan Diego, do not fear,
I am God's and your sweet mother

And forever, I'll be here.

BRIDGE 1:

Juan Diego thought, uneasily,
“How can it be, she does not see?”
“The Bishop won't see me
'Cause I'm nobody.”
She said, “I disagree.”

VERSE 3

When the Bishop rejected him,
She said, Go back again
The Bishop wanted proof and Juan told Our Lady.
She just smiled gently and said,
“Up on the hill you'll see
Flowers blooming beautifully, gather them for me.”

REFRAIN 2:

Take the flowers to the Bishop
Juan Diego, have no fear
I am God's and your sweet mother
And forever, I'll be here.

VERSE 4:

At the top of the hill, Juan found Castilian roses,
And gathered them up/ in the tilma he wore,
As he entered the Bishop's door, the roses spilt -out on the floor,
And on Juan's cloak appeared/ the image of her.

VERSE 5:

On the twelfth of December, since all can remember,
We cover the altar with flowers on her day
Sing her good morning with the birds in the dawning
To honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

REFRAIN 3:

Bring the flowers to Our Lady
Sing her praise and do not fear
She is God's and our sweet mother
And forever she'll be here.