

Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community Christmas Liturgy, December 24, 2021



https://i0.wp.com/www.the-exponent.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/6398397231_4e40e27afa_z.jpg

THEME: CHRIST IS BORN THROUGH US



Liturgical Team:

Presiders: Bridget Mary Meehan, ARCWP, and Peg Bowen

Readers: Suzanne Bires and Joan Pesce; Prayer Leaders: Beth Ponce and Elena Garcia

New Zoom link for video, Dec. 24, 2021, 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81534075389?pwd=TTdGY2NxS3AzTW13ODJESkdYME9aUT09>

Meeting ID: **815 3407 5389**

Password: **803326**

GREETING and WELCOME!

PEG: Welcome to Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community where everyone is welcome to share in our celebration of the Eucharist. We invite you to pray the liturgy and respond aloud and muted where it says “ALL.” All participants will be muted during the liturgy except for the presiders and readers. Please have bread and wine/juice nearby as we pray our Eucharistic prayer.

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and of the Christ Presence in human hearts everywhere. Thomas Merton wrote: “Christ is born in us today in order that he may appear to the whole world through us.” We gather at this holy meal to celebrate the Christ Presence born in us and through us each day.

Opening Song: Cedar mont Kids - Angels We Have Heard on High

<https://youtu.be/oSJUwoXciBY>

Reconciliation Rite:

BMM: Let us recall times we did not see the Christ Presence everywhere.

Pause for several moments of silent reflection as you place hand over your heart.

For the times I failed to see Christ in my sisters and brothers and in creation.

BMM and ALL: I am sorry, please forgive me, I thank you, I love you.

ALL: Sing Glory to God- Linda Lee Miller

https://youtu.be/dgn_8q1UWwk

Opening Prayer:

BMM: Emmanuel, God-with-us, we rejoice in your birth in Bethlehem and in your coming anew as the Presence of Christ within our souls. We are your dwelling place. We are now your Bethlehem. Like the angels and shepherds who were filled with wonder long ago, we sing and dance for joy as we welcome you again and again, in the love that flows through us to others. Amen, Alleluia!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

SUZANNE BIRES: First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of deep shadows
a light has shone.

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
They name him Wonder-Counselor, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast and forever peaceful.

These are the inspired words of the Prophet Isaiah, and we respond

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response: When Love Was Born - sung by Mark Schultz

<https://youtu.be/aKSU9Dbxvrw>

JOAN PESCE: Second Reading: Dancing God by Joyce Rupp

Dancing God
passionate leap of creative energy
skipping among the stars
waltzing on rivers
birthing a Universe

Dancing God
tumbling from somewhere in Jewish territory
whirling Spirit
seeing Mary's womb
with alluring divinity

Dancing God
uncontainable grandeur
kicking and rolling in Mary's flesh
while untamed cousin
echoes the dance in Aunt Elizabeth

Dancing God
spark of angel's song
shepherds hurrying like whirling dervishes
gasping in awe
at a surprising child

Dancing God
still passionate today
dynamic movement of love
wooing our hearts
toward oneness and peace
in a tear-stained world

Dance on, Passionate God,
we are your dance now
teach us the tune
show us the steps
it is Christmas
it is time to dance.
These are the inspired words of Joyce Rupp and we respond
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alle, Alle, Alleluia with Linda Lee Miller
<https://youtu.be/ID5UGWcS6Ws>

PEG: Gospel: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-14

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to register, each to the town of their birth. And so, Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to David's town of Bethlehem in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her delivery. She gave birth to her firstborn and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn.

There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping nightwatch by turns over their flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them, they were very much afraid. The angel said to them, "You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you - tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day in David's city, a savior - the Messiah - has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts, praising God and saying, Glory to God in high heavens! And on earth, peace to those on whom God's favor rests.

These are the inspired words of the evangelist Luke. We respond

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alle, Alle, Alleluia with Linda Lee Miller

<https://youtu.be/ID5UGWcS6Ws>

BMM: Homily Starter: A Meditation - Christ is born through us by Bridget Mary

We Are Bethlehem by Alana Levandoski

<https://youtu.be/rLpdfXSIIdFo>

(During the meditation prompts the following instrumental music will play softly)

Heavenly Christmas Music_ Silent Night

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlb8yfJ3-bM>

Meditation Prompts:

When we visit the sick and comfort the lonely, Christ is born through us...

When we see the face of Christ in another person, Christ is born through us...

When we feed the hungry, Christ is born through us...

When we look at life with eyes filled with child-like wonder, Christ is born through us...

When we gather at table with family and friends to nourish one another, Christ is born through us...

When we listen to people in distress, Christ is born through us...

When we treat others with kindness, Christ is born through us...

When we gather with family and friends this holy season, Christ is born through us...

Let us pause for Silent Reflection.

Community Sharing: Share one way Christ is born anew in you and through you.

Profession of Faith:

SUZANNE BIRES and ALL:

We believe in God who is creator and nurturer of all. We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who is our love, our hope, and our light. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of Wisdom Sophia, who energizes and guides us to build caring communities and to challenge injustices. We believe in the communion of saints our heavenly friends, who support us on life's journey. We believe in the partnership and equality of women and men in our church and world. We believe that all are one in the community of creation. We believe that God calls us to live fully, love tenderly, and serve generously. Amen.

Prayers of the Community:

JOAN PESCE: For a deeper realization of the Christ Presence working through us each day, we pray.

Joan and ALL: May Christ be born anew in us each day.

JOAN PESCE: For good health, energy and vitality for ourselves and all for whom, we pray

Joan and ALL: May Christ be born anew in us each day.

JOAN PESCE: For healing for the sick and comfort for the grieving, we pray

Joan and ALL: May Christ be born anew in us each day.

JOAN PESCE: For our loved ones who have passed into God's eternal embrace, we pray.

Joan and ALL: May Christ be born anew in us each day.

Joan Meehan shares Prayer Intentions in MMOJ book

JOAN PESCE: and for what else do we pray?

BMM: Blessed are you, God of all life, through your goodness we have bread, wine, all creation, and our own lives to offer. Through this sacred meal may we become your new creation.

PEG and ALL: Blessed be God forever.

PREFACE

BMM: God dwells in us.

PEG and ALL: And in all people everywhere.

BMM: Lift up your hearts.

PEG and ALL: We lift them up in the joy of Divine Presence within us.

BMM: Affirm the power of love within you and within all.

PEG and ALL: Alleluia

We Are Holy – Linda Lee Miller

<https://youtu.be/orKBBIj5LZA>

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

BETH PONCE: Mothering Presence, you brought forth all creation from your Life-Giving Womb. O Giver of all Gifts, you came as Love Poured Out to dwell among us. You revealed yourself in Mary's womb, in a shining star, in humble shepherds, and in a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes.

ELENA GARCIA: Today, we see the Christ Presence shining forth as pure love in the eyes of the elderly, in the service of care-givers, in the witness of justice-makers, and in the dreams embedded in our own hearts. We give thanks for the Giver of Abundant gifts that nourishes and sustains us. We commit ourselves to be gifts of your goodness and generosity as we serve the needs of the least and the last in our world.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit:

(raise hands toward bread and wine for Invocation of the Holy Spirit)

BMM and ALL: Now, we share the bread of life and lift the cup of blessing at this festive meal as we pray: come Holy Spirit deepen your Presence within us and in these gifts of bread and wine.

On the night before he died, while at supper with his friends, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat. Do this in memory of me."

Pause for silent reflection

PEG and ALL: In the same way, Jesus took the cup of wine. He said the blessing, gave the cup to his friends and said, "Take this all of you and drink. Do this in memory of me."

Pause for silent reflection

BMM and ALL: Let us proclaim the sacred presence of our nurturing God:
Jesus, you are born again and again in us and through us each day.

BETH PONCE: We remember the prophet and saints in every age, who, like candles in the night, illuminated the darkness of doubt with faith, courage and wisdom: Miriam and Moses, Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Joseph, and all our beloved family and friends. We recall the spiritual treasures they passed down to us through the ages.

PEG: We join in the divine cosmic dance in communion with all that is, all that was, and all that will be. Through Christ, in Christ, with Christ, all praise and glory echoes through the universe as your Spirit leaps for joy within us!

The Great Amen with Linda Lee Miller
<https://youtu.be/Dy76fpkNsg>

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

ELENA GARCIA: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

O Holy One, 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 we need. You remind us of our limits, and we let go. You support us in your 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, Miriam Therese Winter, MMS

THE SIGN OF PEACE

PEG: Jesus, you said: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you. May we be the peace we wish to see in the world. Let us share a gesture of deep peace and justice with everyone in the circle of life as we bow toward your camera with hands folded as we say together:

ALL: The peace of Christ be with you. Namaste, Namaste, Namaste.

LITANY FOR THE BREAKING OF BREAD

BMM and ALL:

Loving God, You call us to speak truth to power. We will do so.

Loving God, You call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice. We will do so.

Loving God, You call us to be Your presence in the world. We will do so.

PEG and ALL:

We are the hands and feet of Christ in our world. All are invited to this banquet of love.

BMM: Receive the Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing.

BMM and ALL: Amen.

COMMUNION -- Meditation: Silent Night

"Silent Night, Each Holy Child" ~ Shaina Noll

<https://youtu.be/8mhXGwctysc>

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round every birthday, each mother and child
Each Holy Infant is tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, each holy child sleep in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PEG: Dancing God, we awaken to your love born anew in our world as we share your gifts at our holy table. May your tender presence continue to open our hearts to the daily miracles of Christ Presence that surround us each day. May Christ be born anew through us in our world this Christmas and New Year!

PEG and ALL: Amen.

Welcome, Gratitude, and Announcements

CONCLUDING RITE

BMM: The Holy One is within you.
PEG and ALL: and within all.

BLESSING

(everyone please extend your hands in mutual blessing)

BMM and ALL:
May we sing and dance for joy as we celebrate every day as Christmas!

DISMISSAL

PEG: Let us rejoice that Christ is born anew through you and me in our world today. Go in peace and let the service continue.
BMM and ALL: Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING HYMN: Joy to World - Music *(see new words!)*
“Sound Forth the News That Wisdom Comes”

<https://youtu.be/CSVdbl-ulJw>

Sound forth the news that Wisdom comes
to bring new life to birth.
Arise with hope, Her labor join,
and peace shall fill the earth,
and peace shall fill the earth,
and peace, and peace shall fill the earth.

No more let fear and custom hide
the path of Wisdom fair.
She leads the way to life and joy,
with gifts for all to share,
with gifts for all to share,
with gifts, with gifts for all to share.

Joyful are we who heed the call
of Wisdom in our souls.
With Her we break oppression's wall,
so love may freely flow,
so love may freely flow,
so love, so love may freely flow.

Crown Wisdom Queen of heaven and earth;

Her reign will set us free.
Fling wide the gates that all may come
join hands and dance with glee,
join hands and dance with glee,
join hands, join hands and dance with glee.

Words © Jann Aldredge-Clanton, from Inclusive Hymns for Liberating Christians
“Sound Forth the News That Wisdom Comes” calls us to co-create with Wisdom a world of justice, peace, equality, love, freedom, and joy. This Christmas carol comes with the hope that Wisdom will guide us to change our violent culture and to co-create with Her a peaceful world. Let us join together in our churches, communities, and home in [caroling for change](#)."

Liturgy by Bridget Mary Meehan <https://arcwp.org>, <https://marymotherofjesus.org>

If you want to add a prayer intention to our MMOJ Community Prayer book, please send an email to Joan Meehan. jmeehan515@aol.com

If you want to invite someone to attend our liturgy, please refer them our website at MaryMotherofJesus.org

To support our community, please send your check to:
Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community
St Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Rd, Sarasota, Florida 34238