

MMOJ Inclusive Catholic Community Liturgy: First Sunday of Lent:
Feb. 25, 2023
Presiders: Bridget Mary Meehan and Beth Ponce
Lectors: Joan Pesce and David Ponce
Prayer Leaders: Suzanne and Jerry Bires
Music Minister: Linda Lee Miller
IT Team: Cheryl Brandi



Photo: Mohamed Nohassi- Unsplash

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81534075389?
pwd=TTdGY2NxS3AzTW13ODJESkdYME9aUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81534075389?pwd=TTdGY2NxS3AzTW13ODJESkdYME9aUT09)

Meeting ID: 815 3407 5389
Passcode: 803326

Beth P: Welcome:

We warmly welcome you to the inclusive Catholic Community of Mary Mother of Jesus on Zoom. We invite you to pray the liturgy where it says "All." Whoever you are, wherever you are, you are welcome to celebrate Eucharist at our open loving table. *Our theme today is the place God calls us is where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.*

Opening Song: I will Surrender by Karen Drucker

Share

<https://youtu.be/Nz2zAY3xcbE>

Transformation Rite:

Bridget M: Called to be aware that the same divine presence that dwelt in Jesus dwells

in us,

All: May we hunger for the Holy One within and beyond us.

Bridget M: Called to see addictive behaviors and unloving thoughts or actions that hurt others,

All: May we make choices that lead to freedom and healing.

Bridget M: Called to respond to the cries of the impoverished for justice in our communities,

All: May we give of our time and resources to create a more just world.

Beth Ponce: Opening Prayer:

Holy One we are aware of the hunger within us and beyond us. We see our own shadows or dark sides and recognize our complicity in creating a world invested in competition and domination. May we know your desires for us, seek wisdom in the choices we make, and may we be in the place where we meet the world's hungers.

Bob F: A reading from the book of Genesis 3:1-8

The serpent was clever, more clever, than any wild animal GOD had made. He spoke to the Woman: "Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?"

The Woman said to the serpent, "Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. It's only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'Don't eat from it; don't even touch it or you'll die.'"

The serpent told the Woman, "You won't die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil."

When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it—she'd know everything!—she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate.

Immediately the two of them did "see what's really going on"—saw themselves naked! They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves.

When they heard the sound of God strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from GOD.

These are the words of the author of Genesis from the Message Bible and we respond to them by saying:

All: Amen

Responsorial Psalm:

Root of the Root

<https://youtu.be/Ssv0mNxu3Cw>

Pat F: Our Second Reading:

A Reading from "A Hunger Shared" from In the Sanctuary of Women

One of the signs that we've found our way to a core desire, something that God desires for us, is that in following it, we feed not only our own hunger but that of others as well. When we pursue God's longing for our life, it never serves only ourselves.

Vocation is a word that gets at this idea. With ancient roots in the Latin word *vocare*—to call—vocation isn't merely about what job we have but about who God has created us to be in this world. Vocation conveys the notion that God has designs on us and has placed us within this world to work for its flourishing in concert with our own.

In writing about vocation, Frederick Buechner says, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." So what are you hungry for? What do you desire, and what desire lies beneath that desire—or within it? What does your wanting teach you about yourself; about what you love, what you fear, what is possible? How does your longing meet the world's longing? How do you pray with your desires? Blessing Where the hunger of the world beyond you meets the hunger of the world within you: may you find yourself in this place.

These are the inspired words of Jan Richardson and we respond by saying:

All: Amen

Gospel Acclamation: Spirit of the Living God by Michael Crawford

Share

Spirit of the Living God by Michael Crawford

<https://youtu.be/yyX3hYKUiYU>

Beth: A Reading from the Gospel Mt 4:1-11

After Jesus was baptized, he was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights,
and afterwards he was hungry.

The Tempter approached and said to him,

"If you are the Son of God,
command that these stones become loaves of bread."

He said in reply,

"It is written:

*One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God."*

Then the Tempter took Jesus to the holy city,
where they stood on the parapet of the temple,
and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.

For it is written:

*God will command his angels concerning you
and with their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone."*

Jesus answered him,

"Again it is written,

You shall not put the your God, to the test."

Then the Tempter took Jesus up to a very high mountain,
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,
and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you,
if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to him,

"Get away, Tempter!

It is written:

*God, alone shall you worship
God alone shall you serve."*

Then the Tempter left him and
angels came and ministered to him.

These are the inspired words of Matthew and we respond by saying:

All: Amen

Homily: Bridget Mary Meehan

Community Sharing: What did you hear in the readings today?

Suzanne B and All:

Statement of Faith:

We believe that God is love and that Divine Presence is beyond anything we can imagine.

We believe in Jesus, prophet and teacher, who journeyed on the earth, proclaiming good news, healing the sick, liberating those bound by fear, and inviting everyone to an open table.

We believe in Sacred Spirit, Wisdom Sophia, breathing in us and loving through us.

We believe in the communion of saints, our heavenly friends who, help us on our journey.

We believe in the partnership and equality of women and men in our Church and our world. Here we live our prophetic call of Gospel equality.

Jerry B: Prayers of the Community:

: We now bring our prayer intentions to the Table.

Our response is: All: May our love bring healing in our world.

We pray for the devastated families of those still suffering from hurricanes and all the natural disasters in our world. R

We pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia that they may live in peace without fear and that justice will prevail for all. R

We pray that our political leaders will put the flourishing of all people before power and greed.

We pray for our MMOJ intentions on our community prayer list. (Joan shares)

Our response is: All: May our love bring healing in our world.

For what else should we pray?

Our response is: All: May our love bring healing in our world.

: Holy Mystery may we respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers in loving prayer and service. Amen

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Bridget Mary: Blessed are You, Holy One, through Your divine providence we have this bread, to share, the Bread of Life.

Bridget Mary and All: Blessed are You, Holy One, forever.

Beth: Blessed are You, O Loving One through Your divine providence we have this wine to share, our spiritual drink.

Beth and All: Blessed are, You, Holy One, forever.

Bridget Mary: Nurturing One, we are united in this sacrament by the love of Christ, whose presence draws into living our souls' desires to love with all our heart, to walk the sacred path and to see the face of God.

Bridget Mary and All: Amen, may it be

PREFACE:

Suzanne B: God dwells within the desires of our hearts

and All: And in the desires of all people.

Jerry B: Lift up your hearts.

and All: We lift up our hearts and embrace all.

Suzanne B: We are blessed when the desires of our hearts guide us to meet the needs of the world.

and All: Amen

**In the pondering of our deepest desires, the contemplation of our present longings, and our future call to serve God's people in our world today
We sing:**

Holy, Holy, Holy: by Karen Drucker

<https://youtu.be/orKBBij5LZA>

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

Jerry B: Like Jesus, may the longings of our hearts deepen our desire to walk the sacred path to which God calls us, and choose love in every step.

Suzanne B:: May we discover the path to wisdom in times of temptation and struggle. May we experience strength in weakness and healing in pain, and share your compassion with all whom we meet. May we taste the goodness of the One we long for at every meal. May we nourish one another at this welcome table.

(Please extend your hands in blessing.)

Bridget Mary and All: As we bless this bread and wine, we celebrate the outpouring Spirit within us, around us and among us .

(Community holds bread and prays together)

Bridget Mary and All: 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

(Community holds cup up and prays together)

Beth P 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."

**Beth P and All: Let us proclaim the sacred presence dwelling among us:
Our souls' desire is -like Jesus- to be the face of God;**

**Our souls' desire is-like Jesus- to walk the sacred path;
Our souls' desire is-like Jesus- to love with open hearts.**

:

Jerry B: We walk in communion with Mary, mother of Jesus and all the saints in heaven and on earth who triumphed over evil, loved tenderly, did justice and served generously. We. Remember our loved ones in the Communion of Saints.
(pause for silent prayer)

(Community members hold their plates and cups during Doxology)

Bridget M and All: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, may our deepest desires energize us to serve the needs of the world beyond us.

The Great Amen. Linda Lee Miller

<https://youtu.be/Dy76fpkNsg>

**Beth P: THE PRAYER OF JESUS
and All:**

We pray together the prayer of Jesus:

O Holy One, who is within, around, and among us,
we celebrate your many names.

Your wisdom comes.

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.

(The Prayer of Jesus as interpreted by Miriam Therese Winter)

THE SIGN OF PEACE

Bridget M. Let us share a gesture of deep peace with everyone in the circle of life as we bow and pray:

All: Namaste! Namaste! Namaste!

LITANY FOR THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Beth P 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.

Bridget Mary: This is the Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing. How happy are we who are called to this Table.

ALL: Jesus, you affirm our blessedness as your presence in the world.

Bridget Mary: Let us share the Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing saying:
You are blessed to give blessings.

COMMUNION Song:
Something New by Jan Novotka

<https://youtu.be/UrJCG88AvBQ>

Open the eyes of my (our) heart. Purify and bless my (our) heart.
Open my (our) heart(s) that I (we) might see, that I(we) might be, something new!

Behold! Behold! I'm making something new!
Behold! Behold! I'm making something new!

Beth P: Prayer after Communion:

May the Holy One, who created us from words and dust and called us good, inhabit our every hunger, dwell in each desire and encompass us in all the choosing that lies ahead. May this Lent be a time of spiritual renewal and growth in our personal live and in our communities.

All: Amen. May it be so!

Bridget M.: Introductions/Thanksgivings/Announcements

Community Blessing:

Beth P: Let us raise our hands and bless each other.

**Beth and All: May your longings lead you far
And farther still
toward the place where what you desire
can be met only by the Holy One within you.
On this day of all days,
May you go in the company
of the One who calls you to love everyone with an open heart.**

(This liturgy was created by Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Theresa Streck. We are grateful to Jan Richardson for the second reading and for the adaptation of blessings and prayers published In the Sanctuary of Women)

Our Closing Song is: My Souls' Desire- Carmel Boyle

<https://youtu.be/wbpRFwWyZ2E>

NEW PO BOX:

Please send donations to:

Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community

5342 Clark Road #3079

Sarasota, FL 34233

Please send intention for our community prayer book to Joan Meehan.

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