

**Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community
Third Week of Easter/Earth Day Liturgy
April 22, 2023
Presiders: Kathryn Shea and Lee Beyer
Readers: Bob and Pat Ferkenhoff
IT: Cheryl Brandi
Music Ministers: Linda and Rick Miller**



Theme: Earth Day - Every Day

Welcome and Gathering

Lee: Welcome to our Zoom liturgy at Mary Mother of Jesus, an inclusive Catholic Community where all are welcome.

-We invite you to pray the liturgy and respond where it says “All.”

-All participants will be muted during the liturgy except for the presiders and readers.

Whoever you are,

Wherever you are,

Just as you are,

You are welcome at this table. (*Integral Christianity by Paul Smith*)

Let us now take a few minutes to collect ourselves as we prepare to focus our minds and our hearts on our knowledge that we are all one, brought together at this time to transform ourselves and our world through love; love for our Holy One, love for our

neighbors, love for ourselves, and love for our planet. Let us begin our liturgy by lighting our candle and expressing this love through song.

Opening Song: Of the Earth by the Many

https://youtu.be/FDW_YEokpxE

Opening Prayer: (Kathryn) Great Spirit, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace all that exists with your loving tenderness. You pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty. May we be filled with Your peace, and may we live as brothers and sisters, caring for all of Your creation. Amen.

(adapted from Laudato Si written by Pope Francis)

Rite of Transformation

Bob: We pause now to remember the times we have not born fruit in caring for self and others. Take a moment to recall one missed opportunity, one broken or damaged relationship. (Pause briefly and extend your hand over your heart)

ALL: As we ask for and receive forgiveness, we open our hearts to Infinite Love embracing and healing us. Let it be so, Yes, Alleluia!

A Joyful Gloria: Linda Lee Miller and graphics by Rick Miller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= IA5I0nODZI>

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: (Pat F) A Reading from the Book of Genesis

God said, “Let us make humankind. Let them care for the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.”

God blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers and fill the earth—and be responsible for it!”

God looked at all creation, and proclaimed that all was good, very good.

These are the inspired words of our ancestors and we affirm them by saying, Amen. *(adapted from the Inclusive Bible.)*

Second Reading: Earth Day Video

<https://youtu.be/RMhfNOHGQnQ>

Gospel: (Lee) A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet the Holy One feeds them. Aren't you more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to your lifespan? And why be anxious about clothing? Learn a lesson from the way the wildflowers grow. They don't work; they don't spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these. If the Holy One can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown on the fire tomorrow, won't the Holy One do so much more for you?

These are the inspired words of the Gospel writer known as Matthew, and the community affirms them by saying, Amen.

Celtic Alleluia: <https://youtu.be/o1rc7ojQtJU>

Homily/Community Sharing

Communal Statement of Faith

Kathryn and ALL: We believe in the Holy One, a divine mystery beyond all definition and rational understanding, the heart of all that has ever existed, that exists now, or that ever will exist.

We believe in Jesus, messenger of God's Word, bringer of God's healing, heart of God's compassion, bright star in the firmament of God's prophets, mystics, and saints.

We believe that we are called to follow Jesus as a vehicle of God's love, a source of God's wisdom and truth, and an instrument of God's peace in the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, The life of God that is our innermost life, The breath of God moving in our being, the depth of God living in each of us.

We believe that God's kin-dom is here and now, stretched out all around us for those with eyes to see it, hearts to receive it, and hands to make it happen.

Prayers of and for the Community

Bob: We now bring our prayer intentions to the Table.

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

We pray for the devastated families of those still suffering from 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 goodness and sanity will fill the hearts and minds of those that would cause them harm. R

We pray that our government puts children above guns, power, and greed. R

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

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

For what else should we pray?

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

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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Lee: Gracious Wisdom, you embrace us with your extravagant affection in our times of both blessedness and weakness. You are always with us, carrying us, you living in us and we living in you. As we prepare for this sacred meal, we are aware of our call to serve, our call as your anointed ones to tend to the sick and dying, hold the hearts of those in emotional pain, and protect and defend the marginalized. In this festive meal, your Spirit is poured out on each of us, your anointed disciples, gathered together in this time and place. We also ask that your Spirit be spread to those of our community who are not with us today.

Let us rejoice as we sing:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Linda Lee Miller

(adapted from Holy, Holy, Holy by Karen Drucker)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orKBBIj5LZA>

Pat F: We thank you for the gift of Jesus of Nazareth in history -- and the gift of Jesus in faith. On earth, his life burned with the vision of his mission on earth. Through the example of his life – his teachings and actions - he showed us not only how we should live, but also what was worth even dying for.

Kathryn and All: When his time on earth had come to an end, Jesus – aware of and accepting his destiny – gave us his life for the values that he deeply believed, lived and taught...his conviction that love is stronger than death. And then, in providing an example of this wisdom for all people in ages to come, he opened wide his arms...and died. And the spirit that lived in Jesus resurrected him to a new life, a promise made to all of us too who live the new story. Jesus is with us today and he will be through the end of time.

(With an outstretched arm, we pray the consecration together.

ALL: We remember the gift that Jesus gave us on the night before he died. He gathered with his friends to share a final Passover meal. And it was at that supper that Jesus took bread, said the blessing and shared it with them saying: take this, all of you, and eat it. This bread is you; this bread is me. We are one body, the presence of God in the world. When you do this, remember me and all that I have taught you. This is the new and everlasting covenant.

[short pause]

Lee: In the same way, Jesus took a cup of wine, said the blessing and gave it to his friends saying: take this, all of you, and drink it. This wine is you; this wine is me. We are one blood, the presence of God in the world. When you do this, remember me and all that I have taught you. This is the new and everlasting covenant.

Pat F: Jesus, who was with God “in the beginning of the creation of the heavens and the earth,” is with us now in this bread. The Spirit, of whom the prophets spoke in history, is with us now in this cup. Let us proclaim this mystery of faith.

Pat F and ALL: Jesus has died. Christ is risen. The Divine Presence lives in us and through us in the world today.

Bob: God, we know that you bless your church throughout the world. We, your people, ask for your grace that we may continually grow in our love and caring for Francis, our Pope, Bridget Mary, our Bishop and for everyone with whom we come in contact, especially those who live on the margins of church and society. They are all our brothers and sisters, members of your Blessed Family. We remember also all those, living and dead, who touched our lives and left their footprints on our hearts. We remember especially....(*mention names here, if you would like to.*)

Kathryn and All: We believe that the Spirit of God is at work in and among us and will do more than we could ever ask or imagine. We believe that it is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Creator God, forever and ever.

Great Amen: Linda Lee Miller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy76fpkNsg>

The Prayer of Jesus

Pat F and ALL: 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

Sign of Peace:

(in memory of Russ Banner)

Song: Peace is Flowing Like a River

<https://youtu.be/6qWnEIX5YUE>

Lee: Please join in praying the Litany for the Breaking of the Bread:

Lee and ALL: Holy One, You call us to speak truth to power; we will do so.

Holy One, You call us to live the Gospel of healing and justice; we will do so.

Holy One, You call us to be Your presence in the world; we will do so.

Pat F: This is the bread of life and the cup of blessing. Blessed are we who are called to Christ's table.

Bob and All: What we have heard with our ears, we will live with our lives. As we share communion, we become communion, both Love's nourishment and Love's challenge.

Please receive/share Eucharist now, saying: "You are the heart of the Earth." And "You are the soul of the world."

Communion Song: God Bless the Grass by Pete Seeger - video by Denise Hackert-Stoner

<https://youtu.be/MgiNEsgyhBM>

Introductions/Thanksgiving/Announcements

Prayer after Communion

Lee: Prayer for All the World by Linda Jones

Compassionate and Loving One,
you created the world for us all to share,
a world of beauty and plenty.
Create in us a desire to live simply
so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

**Breath of Life,
you gave us responsibility for the earth,
a world of riches and delight.
Create in us a desire to live sustainably
so that those who follow after us
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.**

**Source of Peace and Justice,
you give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your image.
Create in us a desire for solidarity
so that the pillars of injustice crumble
and those now crushed are set free.**

ALL: Amen. Let it be so.

Community Blessing

Kathryn: Let us raise our hands and pray our blessing:

**May we have the wisdom to care for the earth.
May we act now for the good of future generations and all Your creatures. May we be
instruments of a new creation, founded on the covenant of Your love. Amen.**

Closing Song: I Will Sing of Your Love, Love, Love by Christopher Grundy
<https://youtu.be/AUyjdGNIYH4>

This liturgy is adapted from the beautiful Earth Day liturgy written by Mary Theresa Streck and Denise Hackert-Stoner from the Upper Room Inclusive Community in Albany, NY. I am truly grateful.

**If you would like to add your intercession to our MMOJ Community Prayers book,
Please send an email to jmeehan515@aol.com**

**If you would like to invite another person to attend our liturgy please refer them to
www.marymotherofJesus.org where the day's liturgy is found. Zoom instructions are
also included there.**

**NEW PO BOX:
Please send donations to:**

Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community
5342 Clark Road #3079
Sarasota, FL 34233
www.marymotherofjesus.net