

MMOJ Fourth Sunday of Advent-Dec.23rd, 2023, Presiders: Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Kay Staudohar , Readers: Joan Meehan and Joan Pesce, Prayer Leaders: Jack McKillip and Mary Montavon, IT Cheryl Brandi



The Annunciation by Fra Angelico

Opening Prayer and Lighting of Advent Candle 4 – the candle of love

Source of All that Is, we are grateful for your loving presence within, around and among us.

light the fourth candle

We light this fourth candle and remember that we are called to create, share and be light in all our ways of relating to all of Creation and commit ourselves to work for peace and justice in our world. And so, we respond:

All: Let us kindle the light of love!

Opening Song: Say Yes! By Bob Franke

<https://youtu.be/-N76HoEjfyk?si=YyWeeDlpEd480dXa>

Ave Maria by Ashana

<https://youtu.be/79N0w4NcZSY>

Community Transformation Rite: Bridget Mary

Called to see our missed opportunities to love and serve others, we pray:

All: Transform us, Holy One

Called to believe in God's limitless forgiveness of all sin and evil, we open ourselves to the "love of God that has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5), we pray:

All: Transform us, Holy One

Called to say yes to messengers of grace inviting us to serve others and to hear the cries of the impoverished longing for equity and justice, we pray:

All: Transform us, Holy One

Gloria: Linda Lee Miller

https://youtu.be/dgn_8q1UWwk?si=NHFFcs_nH_0_vp0D

Mary Kay:

Opening Prayer:

We rejoice in Mary's yes to birth new life, Emmanuel, God with us. Like Mary may we be open to angels of grace who come to us with unexpected invitations to do what appears to be beyond our abilities. Like Mary, may we let go of fear and trust that we will have everything we need to birth Christ anew in our world today.

All: May it be so. Amen

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Joan M.

First Reading: A reading from The Second Incarnation Flows from the First
By Richard Rohr

Ordinary matter is the hiding place for Spirit, and thus the very Body of the Holy One. Since the very beginning of time, The Spirit has been revealing its glory and goodness through the physical creation. Christians believe that this universal Christ presence was later "born of a woman under the law" (Galatians 4:4) in a moment of chronological time. This is the great Christian leap of faith.

We daringly believe that the Spirit's presence was poured into a single human being, so that humanity and divinity can be seen to be operating as one in the Divine—and therefore in us! But instead of saying that the Holy One came into the world through Jesus, maybe it would be better to say that Jesus came out of an already Christ-soaked world. The second Incarnation flowed out of the first, out of the Spirit's loving union with physical creation.

These are the inspired words of Richard Rohr and the community responds to them by saying: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Come be Beside Us by Jan Phillips

https://youtu.be/Tdv_AEec7kl

Joan P.

Second Reading: A reflection from Catholic theologian Lizzie Berne DeGear

In the Hebrew Bible this notion of receiving grace, or being favored, is to be had Just as the Bible speaks of a “gaze of grace”, so this concept of mirroring teaches us from a psychological perspective about the gaze of grace between mother and child.

Picture a baby held by its mother, and caught in her loving gaze as she really sees the miraculous and unique wonder that is her child. Some psychologists believe that this is how a baby first conceives of itself as a self. A baby can read from his or her mother’s face what she is seeing when their eyes meet, and this is how the baby first “sees” him or herself.

Now imagine Mary as a mystic with the ability to experience herself as held by God, loved by God, Known by God. Now imagine Mary as a mystic with the ability to experience herself as held by God, loved by God, known by God.

These are the inspired words of Lizzie Berne De Gear and we respond to them by saying : Amen

:

Alleluia (eightfold)

https://youtu.be/IC4nbwmQDVw?si=TnQK9qzWzNS_2cmM

Mary Kay:

Gospel: A reading from the Gospel of Luke

[Lk 1:26-38](#)

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a maiden betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and her name was Mary.
And coming to her, Gabriel said,
"Hail, full of grace! The Holy One is with you."
But she was greatly troubled at what was said

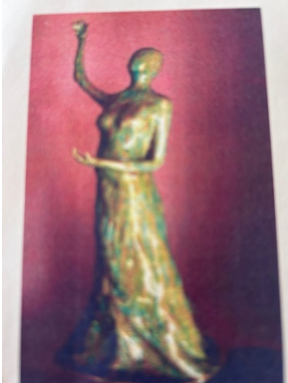
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
Then the angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.
But Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be,

These are the inspired words of Luke, evangelist and we respond to them by saying
All: Thanks be to God

(Pause for silent reflection)

Homily: Bridget Mary Meehan

Mary Kay: Advent Woman of God: Prayer



Community Sharing:

Statement of Faith: Mary Kay:

All: We believe in the creator and lover of all, the Divine Mystery, beyond all comprehension. We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who shows us that the overflowing presence of the Holy One dwells within us and is nearer to us than we are to ourselves. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who empowers us with spiritual gifts for loving service and compassionate action. We believe in the great homecoming reunion of all God's people where all tears will be wiped away in a joyful gathering of God's holy people in the Communion of Saints. Amen
(Statement of Faith shared by Bridget Mary)

Prayers of the Community: Joan M.

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.

For peace in the Ukraine and Middle East, we pray:
Joan and ALL: May Christ be born anew in us each day.

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.

For healing for the sick and comfort for the grieving, we pray
Joan and ALL: May Christ be born anew in us each day.

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
... and for what else do we pray?

We ask you now to please share your intentions.

Closing: Joan M.
We give thanks for all whom we held in the circle of grace and will continue to pray for
and serve. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of The Gifts

(All hold bread plate)

Bridget Mary: Blessed are you, God of all Life. Through your goodness we have
received the bread we offer you fruit of the earth, and work of human hands. It will
become for us the bread of life.

ALL: Blessed by God forever.

(All hold cup)

Mary Kay: Blessed are you, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have
received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become
our spiritual drink.

Mary Kay: Blessed by God forever.

PREFACE

Jack: God dwells in us.
ALL: And in all people everywhere.

Jack: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

ALL: Alleluia

Jack: With all creation and the angels and saints, we sing our hymn of praise:

We Are Holy – Linda Lee Miller

<https://youtu.be/orKBB1j5LZA>

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Mary M: 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.

Jack: 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:

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

Mary Kay: We ritualize the Christ Presence born anew each day in us and in the entire cosmos as we pray:

All: Come Holy Spirit deepen your Presence within us and in these gifts of bread and wine.

Bridget Mary and ALL: Now, as we share the bread of life and lift the cup of blessing at this festive meal, we pray:

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

Mary Kay 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

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

Mary M: We remember angels of grace and prophets and saints in every age illuminating 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 that they passed down to us through the ages.

Jack: We rejoice that ordinary matter is the hiding place for Spirit and the Body of the Holy One. 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 dances for joy within us!

The Great Amen. Linda Lee Miller

https://youtu.be/0sDDgwZlijc?si=sxoaV_RjinjGC9AB&t=3

COMMUNION RITE

The Prayer of Jesus

Mary Kay: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: 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)

BMM: Sign of Peace:

Please extend a sign of peace to one another:

All: Namaste, Namaste! Namaste!

Litany for the Breaking of Bread

_Mary Kay: Please join in the prayer for the breaking of the bread:
(Presiders break the bread)

Mary Kay and All:

O God of Courage, we are called to live the Gospel of peace and justice. We will live justly.

O God of Compassion, We are called to be Your presence in the world. We will love tenderly.

O God of Truth, We are called to speak truth to power. We will walk with integrity in your presence.

(Presiders hold up bread and wine)

Bridget Mary: This is the bread of life and the cup of blessing. Through it we are nourished and we nourish each other. All are welcome to the Feast. Eat and drink and delight that you are mirrored in God's gaze!

Communion Meditation: Ave Maria

<https://youtu.be/79N0w4NcZSY>

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mary Kay:

We believe that God delights in us from the first moment of our existence and trust that we are called to be the face of God our world by serving others generously especially the vulnerable and those in need. May we see everyone through the eyes of love.

ALL: May it be so, Amen.

Bridget Mary: Thanksgiving, Introductions, Announcements

CONCLUDING RITE

Mary Kay: We go forth to welcome the disguised messengers of grace who come to us with unexpected invitations to birth Christ anew each day.

ALL: Amen. May it be so.

BLESSING

(Everyone please extend your hands in mutual blessing and pray)

Bridget Mary and ALL:

Like Mary, may Love grow inside of us.

Like Mary, may Love direct us to follow Jesus.

Like Mary, may Love guide us to dream impossible dreams.

DISMISSAL

Mary Kay: Go in peace to be the face of God in the world.

All: Here we are, we are ready!

Closing Song: You are the Face of God by Karen Drucker

<https://youtu.be/rH-BKtAP2q4?si=VIsuHJ-A8rYhMTIE>