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Welcome and Gathering Rite: Mary M
A warm welcome to Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community Zoom Liturgy.

Today we celebrate the feast of the embodied Mary in heaven. Let us "untie the strong woman" and recognize divinity in female bodies and in all genders. Let us live Mary's Magnificat vision of justice and equality to transform oppressive power structures and hierarchies.

Whoever you are, wherever you are, you are welcome at this table in our church without walls. Please have bread and wine/juice in front of you as we pray the Eucharistic Prayer together.

Opening Song: Blessed is She by Colleen Fulmer
https://youtu.be/P_ZjCQKwYIw

Blessed is she who believed
That the promise made her by our God
Would we fulfilled, would be fulfilled

And Mary said let me sing the praise of God
For having touched this lowly one
And from now on I shall be called woman most highly blessed

Holy is our God whose kindness never ends
Who by great strength has scattered the proud

And raises up the poor and gathers them into all fullness

For God has come to this servant Israel
To show all mercy now and forever as was promised
Sarah and Abraham and the children forever.

Transformation Rite:

Presider: Bridget Mary

We pause now to affirm the divinity of our embodied selves. Take a moment to get in touch with the sacredness of your body.

(Pause briefly and extend your hand over your heart)

Let us open our hearts to Infinite Love moving through every cell of our bodies.

All: I rejoice in Boundless Love embracing me, and guiding me to healing and wholeness. Amen, Alleluia!

Gloria: Please join in praying the Gloria together
Presider: Mary M and ALL:

Glory to the Spirit of Life, for the Divine Mystery in which we live and move and have our being.

Glory to the Spirit of Life, for the gift of inner peace- peace in our hearts, peace in our thoughts, peace with one another.

Glory to the Spirit of life for Mary, whose Assumption reminds us of the sacredness of our bodies. Amen, So be it! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer
Presider: Bridget Mary

Let us pray:

Holy One, on this Feast of Mary's Assumption, we celebrate the gift of life in our embodied selves. May we -like Mary- challenge oppressive power structures and hierarchies that devalue women's bodies and humanity. May we- like Mary- be prophetic witnesses of justice for the excluded ones and welcome all to the Banquet Table of your Boundless Love.

ALL: So be it!

<u>Liturgy of the Word</u>

Reader: Suzanne Bires
First Reading: A Reading from Untie the Strong Woman by Clarissa Pinkola Estes

This word Memorare, chosen as the first word in the first line of the prayer, doesn't mean turn back and make some vapid recall, be of fluffy sentiment. It's not a weak effort to remember. No, this Memorare means Remember! Wake up! It is a command from the soul to r***emember who you are and what powers have been born into you; that you are the son, the daughter, of Blessed Mother…***

Even as the Great Woman wears "the shirt of arrows" slammed onto her by the ridiculing, the scorning, the opprobrium of the overculture for her relentless stance in protecting all the vulnerable souls of the earth — she continues nonetheless to shelter and to intercede for the spirit of the child in all souls, of any age…

Who needs protection, who will ever need protection and justice, are the souls of her earthly, vulnerable children, regardless of their number of years lived. The Great Woman's own Child said it free and clear: Whatever you do to the least of us, you do to Me.

In this way, the Mother who wears "the shirt of arrows" teaches us that all souls belong under the armor of her starry mantle, cradled beside her precious Little Child. She takes on the protection of all.

So, despite human failings, our own and/or others', we continue to chant the Memorare so that all — the sighted and the semi-sighted and the not-yet-sighted, the hearing and the not hearing, the heartful and the not heartless perhaps but rather more accurately the not-yet-heartful — will all be aided in ways that can support them, and us, to be made whole again.

All are understood as worthy of understanding and mercy. With Blessed Mother, no one is left out.

These are the inspired words of spiritual teacher Clarissa Pinkola Estes and the community responds to them by saying

All: So be it!

Responsorial Psalm: Magnificat
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i85XG4OwQ8s

Reader: Jerry Bires
Second Reading:
A Reading from Abounding in Kindness by theologian Elizabeth Johnson (pp.309 -310)

Mary's canticle finds special resonance in the hearing of women who struggle against sexism as well as against racism, classism, heterosexism, and all other injustice that demeans their humanity.

They note that this is the longest set of words on the lips of any woman in the whole New Testament, the most any woman gets to say.

In its spirit, they draw many and varied lessons of encouragement.

One of the strongest and most unusual lessons in light of traditional Mariology is the right of women to say "no."

Leonardo Boff makes the point well: “Men toiling in the service of male power interests represent Mary only as the woman who knew how to say yes.”

But here she takes on as her own the divine NO to what crushes the lowly. She stands up fearlessly and sings out that injustice will be overturned.

No passivity here, but solidarity with divine outrage over the degradation of life, coupled with God’s merciful promise to repair the world.

In the process she bursts out of the boundaries of male-defined femininity while still every inch a woman.

Singing of her joy in God’s victory over oppression, she becomes not a subjugated but a prophetic woman.

These are the inspired words of theologian Elizabeth Johnson and the community responds to them by saying

All: So be it.

Celtic Alleluia: Linda Lee Miller
https://youtu.be/2ME1cF2iSgE

Gospel Reading: Mary M
A reading from the Gospel of Luke 1:39 - 56

Mary didn’t waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah’s house, and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby in her womb leaped.
She was filled with the Holy Spirit and sang out exuberantly.
You’re so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed!
Why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me?
The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, the babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy.
Blessed woman, who believed what God said and believed every word would come true!

And Mary said,

I’m bursting with God-news,
I’m dancing the song of my Savior God.

God took one good look at me, and look what happened—I’m the most fortunate woman on earth!

What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.

God's mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before the Holy One.

God scattered the bluffing braggarts.
God *knocked* tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud.

The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold.

God embraced the people.

God remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.

It's exactly what the Holy One promised, beginning with Abraham and Sarah and right up to now.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went back to her own home.

These are the inspired words of the Apostle Luke. And the community responds by saying:

All: So be it.

(adapted by Bridget Mary from The Message New Testament by Eugene H. Peters)

Prayer Leader: Jim Brandi
Community Statement of Faith

Together let us profess our Faith.

We believe in our Creator who has not forgotten us, rather is ever and always present with us.

We believe in Jesus, the Word incarnate, who journeyed on the earth, blessing the sick, making whole the broken, healing many, instilling faith in his followers so that they may continue the work He began.

We believe in Christ, the everlasting Presence in our world in our universe.

We believe in the Spirit of Life, the breath of wisdom Sophia, who stays present and real to us during this great human struggle we face today and in the days ahead.
We believe in the communion of saints, our heavenly friends who walk with us in love as we continue our life journey.

We believe in one another and our individual and collective response to being diligent in following the directives given by medical professionals at this time.

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.

We believe that 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.

Presider: We pray that the Holy One renew in our hearts our commitment to journey always in faith and hope as we reach out and support, comfort and love those closest to us, those who live in our country and all the people of the earth.

Prayer Leader: Cheryl Brandi
Prayers of the Community

As we prepare the altars before us to share this sacred meal, we bring to the table our prayers and intentions.

We bring to the table members of our MMOJ community who are experiencing difficult times for a variety of reasons. May they find peace of mind and heart through our special prayer.

We bring to the table all those who serve the needs of others, those who serve our communities, all those who give of themselves locally, whose compassion brings healing of hearts.

We bring to the table the people of our troubled country, especially those who actively address issues of bigotry and gender injustice of all kinds, may they be heard, may they be listened to, may we all see transformation within ourselves, our communities and our government.

We bring to the table all women of the world who are mothers and all those who have been “mother” to others. May they be inspired by the life of Mary the mother of Jesus, and may we recognize that the power and Spirit of Mary lives within us, within both women and men, always giving us strength and wisdom.

We bring to the table all members of our community; we remember in a special way everyone in our midst who needs to be healed.
…pause… unmute and share name/s….
may all be healed by the Spirit of Mary, our eternal Mother.

We pray for these and any other unspoken intentions. And together we say:

So Be It!

Offertory

Presentation of the bread and wine

Presider: Bridget Mary
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 we become your new creation.

Presider: Mary M
: O Holy One, You dwell in all of us, and you accept our gifts and our worship that we offer in service to our faith community. We do this in memory of our brother, Jesus. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer Leader: Jim
The Holy One is with you.

Prayer Leader and All:
And also with you.

Prayer Leader: Cheryl
We lift up our hearts.

Prayer Leader: and All
We lift them up to the Holy One, the Love of our Hearts.

Prayer Leader: Jim
We give thanks and praise to our compassionate God.

Prayer Leader and All: It is right to give the Holy One thanks and praise.

Prayer Leader: Cheryl
We join now with the angels and saints in this song of joyful praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy…
https://youtu.be/orKBBIj5LZA

Presider Mary M
We celebrate Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as a liturgical leader who praised God, preached the gospel, led the prayers, and healed with her hands.

During Jesus's life on earth, he lived and died loving the poor, healing the sick and challenging the injustices within society. Because of his ministry, Jesus was feared by the authorities of his day, and they sought out ways to bring him to his death.

Invocation of the Holy Spirit (*extend you hand in blessing)*

Presider Bridget Mary and All:
You bless us O Sacred Spirit and you enliven all that exists. You transform these gifts of bread and wine, and our lives, by boundless grace that nourish and sustains us on our journey.

On the night before he faced his own death, Jesus sat at the Seder supper with his companions and friends. He reminded them of all that he taught them, and to fix that memory clearly with them, he bent down and washed their feet.

(All lift your bread and pray)

All: When Jesus returned to his place at the table, he lifted the bread, spoke the blessing, broke the bread, and offered it to them saying:
Take and eat, this is my very self. *(pause)*

(All lift your cup and pray)

Presider: Mary M
All: Then Jesus took the cup of the covenant, spoke the grace, and offered it to them saying:
Take and drink.
Whenever you remember me like this,
I am among you. *(pause)*

Prayer Leader: Cheryl
Let us proclaim and live the gospel of justice and peace, remembering that we are bearers of light and hope.

All: Christ of the Cosmos you are the spark of love in whom we believe; the Wisdom of Sophia in whom we trust; and the desire for justice that consumes us.

Prayer Leader: Jim Sacred Spirit, we remember Mary, Mother of Humanity, who birthed Jesus into our world. We rejoice that the Universal Christ remains always and ever present within and around us. We remember all those who have transitioned from life on earth to complete union with the Sacred Presence: Mary of Nazareth and all great saints, prophets and martyrs.

We remember all the members of our MMOJ Community, our family members and friends who have transitioned into New Life
… *Share the names of your loved ones in silence…*

Prayer Leader: Cheryl
All beloved who have blessed our lives and whose memory continues to inspire us, we remember you.

We pray that the Holy One renew in our hearts our commitment to journey always in faith and hope as we reach out and support our religious and political leaders, comfort and love those closest to us, those who live in our country and all the people of the earth.

Great Amen:

And we respond together by singing the Great Amen.
Linda Lee Miller https://youtu.be/0sDDgwZlijc

Presider: Mary M
Prayer of Jesus:

: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: O Holy One, who is 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 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
(Miriam Therese Winter)

Presider M:
Sign of Peace:

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
Namaste! Namaste! Namaste

Presider: Bridget Mary
Prayer for the Breaking of the Bread

Please join in praying the prayer for the breaking of the bread:

All: Loving God, You call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice.
We will live justly.

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

Loving God, You call us to speak truth to power.
We will walk with integrity.

(Presiders hold up bread and wine)

Presider Mary M:
Let us pray our communion prayer together.

All: What we have heard with our ears, we will live with our lives; as we share communion, we will become communion, both Love's nourishment and Love's challenge. We are the Body and Blood of Christ in our world.

Communion: Ave Maria (Ashana, Video: Mary Theresa Streck)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79N0w4NcZSY

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Announcements

Blessing:
Presider: Bridget Mary

We together raise our hands as we bless one another.

All: May we rejoice in our blessed humanity and divinity.
May we speak truth to power and to work for justice and equality.
May we be the face of God- joyful and loving- in our world.
Amen, Alleluia, So be it!

Closing Song:
Courageous Women – Jan Novotka, Video by Mary Theresa Streck
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8YdXUl4ZsQ

*Special thanks to Dotty Shugrue for inspirational music and prayers for community for this liturgy.

If you would like to add your prayer request 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.net where the day's liturgy is found. Zoom instructions are also included there.