MMOJ Christmas Eve Liturgy: Dec. 24, 2024, Presiders: Bridget Mary Meehan and Joan Meehan, Readers: Luca Cruzat and Mary Al Gagnon, Prayer Leaders: Mary Montavon and Jack McKillip, IT: Cheryl Brandi

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/93473708926?pwd=VHFKZGJ5N3ljbzZtVU1qQVRZY1lodz09

Meeting ID: 934 7370 8926
Passcode: 552967

Graphic: Ahasanaraakter

Theme: Celebrate the Birth of Christ in Tumultuous Times

GREETING and WELCOME!

Joan M: Welcome to Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community where everyone is welcome to share in our celebration of the Eucharist. Please have bread and wine/juice nearby as we pray our Eucharistic prayer.

Today. in the presence of deep division and anxiety, we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and of the Christ Presence in our hearts in these tumultuous times. May we let go of fear, and trust that the Christ Presence is born anew in us every time we respond with love and compassion to our sisters and brothers in need.

Opening Song: Cedarmont Kids - Angels We Have Heard on High
https://youtu.be/oSJUwoXciBY

Transformation Rite:
Bridget Mary: Let us recall times when our fear kept us from doing good and reaching out to those in need.
Pause for several moments of silent reflection as you place hand over your heart.

Bridget Mary and ALL: We are sorry, please forgive us, We love you.

ALL: Sing Glory to God- Linda Lee Miller
https://youtu.be/dgn_8q1UWwk

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

FIRST READING: Mary Al
A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 9:1-6c

In darkness, a light was born.
From deep darkness, a crest of dawn shines. You enlarged life,
and Your people were born.
Even though they knew pain and suffering, You increased their joy.
They rejoice before You
as with joy at the harvest, as children exult at play
and delight in sharing gifts.
For You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot that trampled in battle and every cloak rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for fire.
For unto us a child is born. For unto us a child is given
on whose shoulders our futures rest.
This child will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Strength of God,
Everlasting One, Voice of Peace. And of the peace the Child brings,
there will be no end.
The Word of the Prophet Isaiah.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM
Come Darkness, Come light by Mary Chapin Carpenter, video byMary Theresa Streck

https://youtu.be/LXYquepxjVE?si=OvzIVDa-r2cT8qLb

SECOND READING: Luca
A Reading from the Book of Hebrews 1:1-3, 6, 8-9
In times past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways. In these last days, God has spoken to us through the Christ, the Messiah, whom God appointed heir of all things and through whom God made the cosmos. This Cosmic Christ is the radiance of God's glory and the fullness of God's being, sustaining all things by a powerful word. After Jesus' life and death, the Cosmic Christ filled the majesty of the heavens.
When God brings a holy child into the world, God says:
"Let all God's angels praise."
About the Christ, God says:
"Your reign will last for ever and ever! A scepter of justice
will be the scepter of your kin-dom.
You have loved righteousness and shunned evil. Therefore God, your God anointed you, Messiah,
with the oil of joy."
The Word of an Early Christian Apologist.
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia by Jan Philips
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC4nbwmQDVw

GOSPEL: Joan

A Reading from the Good News attributed to Luke 2:1-20

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first census and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David and Bathsheba. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was pledged to be married and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn. She wrapped her newborn in swaddling clothes. She laid the baby in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night when an angel, a messenger of God, stood before them. The glory of God shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy for all people:

Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Messiah, the Anointed One. This will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Suddenly, with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host joined in, praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all God's people!"

When the angels departed from them, retreating into cosmic splendor, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us." They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said.

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned to their fields, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, which was just as they had been told.

The Gospel according to Luke
Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Homily: Bridget Mary Meehan
Community Sharing:

Statement of Faith: Mary M. 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.
(Statement of Faith from Bridget Mary)

Prayers of the Community: Jack

For a deeper realization of the Christ Presence working through us each day, we pray.
ALL: May Christ be born anew in us each day.

For good health, energy and vitality for ourselves and all for whom, we pray
ALL: May Christ be born anew in us each day.

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

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

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?

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)
Joan M: 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

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

Mary M: Lift up your hearts.
Jack and ALL: We lift them up in the joy of Divine Presence within us.

Mary M Affirm the power of love within you and within all.
Jack and ALL: Alleluia

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

We Are Holy – Linda Lee Miller

https://youtu.be/orKBBIj5LZA

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Bridget 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.

Joan M: 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*)

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

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

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 for silent reflection

Joan 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

Joan 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.

Mary M: 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.

Jack : 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/Dy76fpfkNsg

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Mary M Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Mary M: We pray the prayer that Jesus prayed using the translation from the Aramaic:

Birther of the cosmos, breathe life into our hearts.
May your power and counsel rule our lives and the whole creation.
May your will to love find its home in each human heart,
as it is at home throughout the cosmos.
Grant us today both bread and wisdom,
that we may in turn become bread for others.

Loose the cords of secret debts that bind us,
and in the strength this freedom gives us,
help us loose the cords we bind round others.
Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from unripeness,
from all that holds us back from loving you.
For from you is born the astonishing fire,
the ruling will, the power and song that give life to all,
here and now and forever, **Amen.**

THE SIGN OF PEACE

Jack: 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 you with hands folded, saying together:
Jack and ALL: The peace of Christ be with you. Namaste, Namaste, Namaste.

LITANY FOR THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Joan and ALL:
Loving God, we are called to speak truth to power. We will do so.
Loving God, we are called to live the Gospel of peace and justice. We will do so.
Loving God, we are called to be Your presence in the world. We will do so.

Bridget M and ALL:
We are the hands and feet of Christ in our world. All are invited to this banquet of love. Receive the Bread of Life and Cup of Blessing.
ALL: Amen.

(All receive Communion

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

Joan: 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!
ALL: Amen.

BMM: Welcome, Gratitude, and Announcements

CONCLUDING RITE

DISMISSAL
Joan: The Holy One is within you.
ALL: May we sing and dance for joy as we celebrate every day as Christmas!

BLESSING
(everyone please extend your hands in mutual blessing)

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

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

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."

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 :

https://marymotherofjesus.net

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