



Left; St. Brigit of Kildare is depicted standing next to apostles on a ancient stone altar at Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary, Ireland

MMOJ Liturgy in Honor of St. Brigid of Kildare, Feb. 5, 2022, Presiders: Bridget Mary Meehan, Mary Kay Staudohar, Readers: Jack McKillip and Mary Montavon, Prayer Leaders: Jerry and Suzanne Bires, IT: Peg Bowen and Jerry Bires

MMOJ's Liturgy [New Link](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81534075389?pwd=TTdGY2NxS3AzTW13ODJESkdYME9aUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 3407 5389

Passcode: 803326

(Note -- if you have a problem with the above link, open your ZOOM app and insert the Meeting ID number and Passcode)

Welcome:

Mary Kay

We warmly welcome you to the inclusive Catholic Community of Mary Mother of Jesus in Sarasota, Florida. We invite you to pray the liturgy where it says, "All." Everyone will be muted during the service. During the shared homily and prayers of the community, we invite you to unmute yourself to contribute, then mute yourself again. Please have bread and wine or juice with you as we pray the Eucharistic Prayer.

Gathering Song: Hymn to St. Brigid by Darren Breton

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k91bGHPD6\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k91bGHPD6_8)

Theme:

Bridget Mary

Like Brigid of Kildare and the early followers of Jesus, Peter and Mary Magdalene, we are seized by the power of divine grace to live our call as disciples of Jesus today. In this liturgy we celebrate St. Brigit of Kildare, bishop and abbess, as a model of partnership in ministry, gracious hospitality and courageous advocacy for justice for all especially those on the margins.

Greeting:

Mary Kay

We begin our celebration in the name of God our creator, and of Jesus our brother, and of the Holy Spirit our wisdom. Loving shelter, your presence is within and all around us.

ALL: Amen.

#### Community Reconciliation and Transformation Rite:

Bridget Mary:

Holy One, aware of the wounds in our lives and our shortcomings and failures to be the Christ Presence in our world. We remember the power of love within us to give and receive forgiveness, and to extend compassion, and understanding to all our brothers and sisters regardless of beliefs, nationalities, races and actions, as we pray:

(Allow a few minutes to become centered. Breathe in deeply the tenderness of God for all the hurts you feel... Breathe out compassion and healing energy to self and others...)

Bridget Mary and All: (with an outstretched arm):

God, Father and Mother of Compassion, through his life, Jesus revealed that nothing can separate us from your unconditional love. Through the power of your Spirit moving in our hearts we receive the grace of healing and peace, and we forgive each other our failures to care for one another and for our earth in the name of Jesus, our brother and of Holy Spirit- Wisdom Sophia- our healer and comforter. Amen.

ALL: GLORIA

<https://youtu.be/rbarqE9o8QY>

Opening Prayer:

Mary Kay: O God of compassion and healing. You gave holy Brigit to us as a sign of your love. You caress us with the warmth of the sun. You encircle us in love's embrace. You are behind us and before us. You are above us and beneath us. We consecrate all that we are to you in loving service of our sisters and brothers near and far. ALL: Amen

Liturgy of the Word:

Jack McKillip:

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah (4:18-19, 6: -8):

The Spirit of God is upon me: because the Most High has anointed me to bring good news to those who are poor. God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive, recovery of sight to those who are blind; and release to those in prison- to proclaim the year of our God's favor. Then I heard the voice of our God saying, "Whom will I send? Who will go for us? Here I am, I said, "Send me!"

These are the inspired words of the prophet Isaiah and we respond:

All: Thanks be to God.

Response:

You have Anointed me -video by MT Streck

<https://youtu.be/vUMdXhZB08U>

Second Reading:

Mary Montavon:

A Reading from Praying with Celtic Holy Women

Brigit of Kildare was born around 450 A.D. at the time of transition from pagan to Christian Ireland. Legends say that Brigit was baptized and named by angels and that she was midwife to the Virgin Mary and godmother of Jesus. (Anachronisms did not disturb the Celtic mind!)

In her early years, she is likely to have worked on a farm, milked cows, and churned butter. Statues often depict Brigit with a cow at her feet. She was seen as the protector of farm animals and guardian of the harvest. When she reached the age of marriage, she rejected the suitors her father had chosen for her, dedicated her life to Christ, and became an abbess.

The story goes that during one Easter season Brigit noted that there was not enough ale for seventeen of her churches. She changed water into beer to make sure that her churches were well supplied for the season.

One time, Brigit even gave the elaborate, feast-day robes of Bishop Conleth to the poor. When the bishop needed his vestments for an upcoming feast day, Saint Brigit gave him another set of vestments similar in both weave and color to those she had given away. Miraculously, Brigit had received replacements from Christ just when they were needed.

Another story told of Brigit involves a basket of apples which were given to her but which she promptly gave to some poor beggars. When her benefactor complained, Brigit replied, "What is mine is theirs." Even in her early life, Brigit managed to give away valuable items belonging to her chieftain father. Brigit's strong sense of justice was evident throughout her life.

Generous hospitality, a traditional characteristic of Celtic people, was a hallmark of St. Brigit's life. Brigit was a woman of abundance. All were welcome at her table of plenty. She saw to it that there was more than enough food, drink, and love to nourish all who came to her hearth and home.

It is this value system that empowers our compassionate outreach in today's ministry of peace and justice. It enlivens this century's awareness of humanity as a global village for whose welfare each one of us is accountable.

These are the inspired words of Bridget Mary Meehan and Regina Madonna Oliver in Praying with Celtic Holy Women, and we respond

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel acclamation: Celtic Alleluia

<https://youtu.be/ApCym8o6-gE>

Gospel: Mary Kay

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke (5:1-11, 8:1-3e)

As Jesus stood by Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd pressed in on him to hear the word of God, he got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a short distance from the shore, then remaining seated he continued to teach the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "pull out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch. Simon answered, "Rabbi, we have been hard at it all night long and have caught nothing, but if you say so, I will lower the nets. Upon doing this. They caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point. They signaled to their mates in the other boat to come and help them. They came, and together they filled the boats until they nearly sank. But, when Simon saw what happened, he was filled with awe, saying "leave me, I beg you, for I am a sinner. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid, from now on, you will be catching people." And when they brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus. Jesus journeyed through the towns and villages proclaiming the good news of God's reign. With Jesus went the Twelve and some women he had healed of evil spirits and sicknesses; Mary of Magdala, from whom he cast out seven demons, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward, Chuaza; Suzanna; and many others, who were contributing to the support of Jesus and the Twelve with their own funds.

These are the inspired words of the evangelist, Luke and we respond:

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily Starter: Bridget Mary (Brigit Earthwoman and Model of Partnership and Equality)

(11:45-15:30)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbMGYzfV6bo>

St. Brigit of Kildare continues to inspire contemporary disciples of Jesus to be reflections of divine compassion, generous hospitality, and mutual partnership. All were welcome at her table of plenty. She saw to it that there was more than enough food, drink, and love to nourish all who came to her hearth and home.

Brigit's attitude of openness and generous welcome provides a model for us, especially valuable for the many people today marginalized or even anathematized by their traditional religion. She lived the spirit of Jesus who himself embraced outcasts, challenged the authorities of synagogue and Temple, and dined with the lowly. Brigit's inclusivity reminds us that we all belong at the Banquet of Love, the heavenly feast. Here all of us find our home, the place where we are loved totally, tenderly, and passionately in the heart of God.

We have come full circle in our contemporary inclusive communities to live Jesus' call to discipleship today. Like Jesus, Peter, Mary Magdalene and Brigid and all who followed Jesus through the ages, we are all called and blessed with a rich diversity of gifts to live Gospel hospitality, compassion and generosity as disciples of Jesus today.

Question for sharing:

What did you hear in our readings or prayers about our call to live as disciples of Jesus today?

Profession of Faith: Jerry

ALL: We believe in God, the Fountain of Life, flowing through every being. We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who reflects the face of God and the fullness of humanity. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God in the cosmos, who calls us to love and serve. We believe in our global oneness with all in the circle of life.

Prayer of Community: Suzanne

Presider: God of Abundance, we share these prayers as a community united in compassion.

Our response to each prayer is Yes, may it be so!

That we may give as gift, the gifts we have received.

Response: Yes, may it be so!

That we, like St. Brigit, be reflections of gracious hospitality, generosity and love.

Response: Yes, may it be so!

That we may care for earth's creatures.

Response: Yes, may it be so!

That we may, like St. Brigit, serve those in need.

Response: Yes, may it be so!

And for what else shall we pray for? (community prayers...)

Presider: God of healing, may be reflections of your liberating, healing compassionate love as we live our lives in love with you and with others. United in the power of your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Preparation of the Gifts:

Presiders (raise bread and wine):

**Bridget Mary:**

Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness, each one of us has bread and fruit of the vine to offer at this sacred meal, that which the earth has given and human hands have made. They will become for us our Bread of Life and Spiritual Drink.

Eucharistic Prayer:

Jerry: Holy One, You dwell in us.

Suzanne and All: And in every living being.

Jerry: Lift up your hearts.

Suzanne and All: We lift them up to the Creator in whom all are one.

Jerry: Let us give thanks for the gift of life.

Suzanne and All: With the angels and saints we give thanks and praise.

for our oneness with all living beings in the family of God as we sing:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy by Karen Drucker. Music by Linda Lee Miller and video by Rick Miller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orKBB1j5LZA>

Invocation of the Holy Spirit:

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

Bridget Mary and ALL:

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

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

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 for silent reflection

Mary Kay and ALL: Let us proclaim the sacred presence of our nurturing God:  
Jesus, you come again and again in us and through us each day.

Jerry: We remember the saints in every age, who lived their call to discipleship: Mary, Mother of Jesus, Peter, Andrew, Mary Magdalene, Susanna, Joanna, Brigid of Kildare and all our beloved family and friends. We recall the spiritual legacy of generous giving and gracious hospitality they have passed down to us through the ages. We join in the cosmic dance in communion with all that is, all that was, and all that will be. Through Christ, in Christ, with Christ, all creation leaps for joy!

The Great Amen with Linda Lee Miller

<https://youtu.be/Dy76fpkNsg>

## THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Suzanne: 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: (Peace, is flowing like a river)

<https://youtu.be/orKBBlj5LZA>

Litany for the Breaking of the Bread:

Mary Kay and All:

God of love in you, with you and through you, we will love.

God of service, in you, with you, and through you, we will serve.

God of justice, in you, with you and through you, we will do justice.

Communion:

Mary Kay and ALL: We are the Body of Christ. All are welcome at this feast.

**Communion Song: An Irish Heart by Tim Janis**

[https://youtu.be/Hib1FX\\_9rVk](https://youtu.be/Hib1FX_9rVk)

Prayers of Gratitude, Introductions and Announcements

Concluding Rite:

Bridget Mary: God of Compassion, you are with us

Mary Kay and ALL: And You love through us.

Blessing: Extend hands and pray an Ancient St. Brigit Blessing

Bridget Mary and ALL:

We welcome the poor to the feast, for they are God's children.

We welcome the sick to the feast for they are God's joy.

Let the poor sit with Jesus at the highest place and the sick dance with the angels."

Mary Kay and All:

May St. Brigit bless the house wherein you dwell. Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof. Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy. Bless every foot that walks its portals through. May St. Brigit bless the house that shelters you.

(Adapted from St. Brigit's Table Blessing)

Closing Hymn: Light the Fire by Liam Lawton

<https://youtu.be/juAeEhRWZRk>

There travels forth from the passages of history  
A woman's voice that is heard across the plains,  
That calls once more, for a people of new vision  
To heal our wounds and green our Earth again,  
To heal our wounds and green our Earth again.

She spreads her cloak 'cross the land and far beyond it,  
A shadow cast on a people void of hope.  
She speaks of peace and the chains that weigh upon it  
And there her light shall glimmer from the oak  
And all that binds the people shall be broke.

So light the Fire of God's desire  
Within all hearts, let sorrows end.  
So light the Fire of God's desire  
God's chosen one, Your peace upon us send.

And we today need a prophet of new vision,  
To lift the low – the forgotten child to heed,  
To be the voice of the wounded and the weary,  
To plant anew a fresh and peaceful seed  
To dance the dance of God's own Blessed Bríd.

So light the Fire of God's desire  
Within all hearts, let sorrows end.  
So light the Fire of God's desire

God's chosen one, Your peace upon us send.

If you want to add a prayer request to our MMOJ Community Prayer book, please send an email to [jmeehan515@aol.com](mailto:jmeehan515@aol.com)

If you want to invite someone to attend our liturgy, please refer them to the day's liturgy at [MaryMotherofJesus.org](http://MaryMotherofJesus.org)

To support our community, please send your check to:

Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community  
St Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Rd, Sarasota, FL 34238

Liturgy by Bridget Mary Meehan, ARCWP  
Association of Roman Catholic Woman Priests

<http://bridgetmarys.blogspot.com/>

[www.arcwp.org](http://www.arcwp.org)

[www.marymotherofjesus.org](http://www.marymotherofjesus.org)