

**Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community  
Liturgy for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  
March 29, 2022**

**Presider: Dotty Shugrue ARCWP Co-Presider: Joan M Pesce**

**Prayer Leaders: Joan Meehan, Anna Davis**

**Reader: Beth Ponce, Mary Al Gagnon**

**Tech: Cheryl Brandi**



**Theme: Who am I to Judge?**

**Joan P**

**Mary Mother of Jesus is an inclusive Catholic Community where all are welcome to share Eucharist. As you hear the Word, you will be invited to share your insights. As an inclusive catholic community, we encourage all to read the prayers with us and to listen and/or join us in song. Be sure you are muted unless you are a reader or prayer leader. Unmute to share in the reflections after the reading of the Gospel and mute when you finish.**

**Opening Song: Sing A New Song by Carrie Newcomer**

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

**Dotty S. Opening Prayer:**

**Holy One, you are within, around and among us.**

**Today we dare to listen to you, truly understand what you are saying to us, not what we think you said. Open our hearts and minds as we collectively listen and share the Good News!**

**Rite of Transformation:**

**Our world is surrounded by the forsaken, the mistreated, the sexually abused, the poor, the unloved, the deserted and so many more abuses of human life. The ministry of Jesus calls us to find our way to service our broken humanity.**

**Transform us O Holy One**

*Liturgy of the Word*

**Reader: Beth Ponce**

**First Reading: Isaiah Ch. 43 (excerpts)**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

**Thus says YHWH, who made a road through the sea, a path in the mighty waters. "Forget the events of the past, ignore the things of long ago! I am doing something new! Now it springs forth—can you not see it? I am making a road in the desert and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland. I will put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, these people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise."**

**These are the inspired words of the prophet Isaiah, and the community responds by saying:**

**So Be It**

**Reader: Joan P**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72 (excerpt), adapted by Nan Merrill**

**Bring justice to the peoples, O Beloved,  
and your mercy to all generations!  
May the people be known for mercy,  
rendering justice to the poor!**

**Let their spirits soar as the eagle;  
let joy abide in every heart!  
May You heed the cry of the poor —  
the young and the old,  
Setting free all those in need, melting the hearts of oppressors!.**

**May our prayers rise up before You  
and blessings of love be freely rendered!  
May we be ever grateful for the grain of the fields,  
for the fruits of the vine to be shared with all;  
and may the people blossom forth in the cities,  
like flowers in the meadow!  
Blessed be You, who come in the Name of Love;  
May your glory fill the earth!**

**Reader: Mary Al**

**Second Reading: Letter to the Philippians (excerpts)**

**The justice I possess is that which comes through faith in Christ. It has its origin in God and is based on faith. All I want is to know Christ, and the power of the resurrection, and how to share in the pattern of Jesus' death---perhaps even to arrive at the resurrection from the dead.**

**It is not that I have reached it yet, or have already finished my course, but I am running the race to grasp the prize, if possible, because Christ has grasped me. Sisters and brothers, I do not think of myself as having reached the finish line. I give no thought to what lies behind, but I push on to what is ahead. My entire attention is on the finish line as I run toward the prize---the high calling of the Holy One in Christ.**

**These are the inspired words of the disciple called Paul and the community responds by saying:**

**So Be It!**

**Gospel Acclamation: Spirit of the Living God by Dena Dean**

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

**Spirit of the Living God**

**Fall fresh on me**

**Spirit of the Living God**

**Fall fresh on me.**

**Melt me mold me**

**Fill me use me**

**Spirit of the Living God**

**Fall fresh on me.**

**Joan P.**

**Gospel Reading: John 8:1-11**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak, he reappeared in the Temple area, and when the people started coming to him, Jesus sat down and began to teach them.**

**A couple had been caught in the act of adultery, though the religious scholars and Pharisees brought only the woman, and they made her stand there in front of everyone. "Teacher," they said, "this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. In the Law of Moses, the punishment for this act is stoning. What do you say about it?"**

**They were posing this question to trap Jesus so that they could charge him with something. Jesus simply bent down and started tracing the ground with his finger. When they persisted in their questioning, Jesus straightened up and said to them, "Let the person among you who is without sin throw the first stone at her." Then he bent down again and wrote on the ground.**

**The audience drifted away one by one, beginning with the elders. This left Jesus alone with the woman, who continued to stand there. Jesus finally straightened up again and said, "Where did they go? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, Teacher," came the reply. I do not condemn you either. Go on your way---but from now on, do not sin anymore."**

**These are the inspired words of the apostle known as John and the community responds by saying:**

**So Be It!**

## **Homily Starter and Shared Reflections**

**Anna Davis**

### **Statement of Faith**

**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 the Divine Word, bringer of healing, heart of Divine compassion, bright star in the firmament of the Holy One's prophets, mystics, and saints.**

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

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

**We believe that the Divine 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 the Community**

**Joan M.**

**As we prepare for the sacred meal, we bring to this table our blessings, cares and concerns. Please feel free to voice your concerns beginning with the words "I bring to the table...." Our response: Holy One, may we love and serve all.**

**Offertory Song: The Prayer by Yolanda (Yolly) S Rotab**

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

**Preparation of The Gifts (Presiders lift the bread and wine)**

**Joan P:**

**Blessed are we through this sacred meal may we become a new creation as we respond to your call to follow the ministry of Jesus remembering all he has taught us.**

**Blessed be the Holy One.**

**God is within you, blessing the world through you.**

**O Holy One, the first passion of Jesus was his passion for justice. In solidarity with the unnamed woman who was shamed before Jesus while her male partner was unaccountable to the Law of Moses, we stand in solidarity with all those who speak truth to power.**

**All: Here in this Place by Christopher Grundy**

<https://youtu.be/sgkWXOSGmOQ>

**Joan M.**

**Holy One, we celebrate the life of our brother, Jesus. He lived his life recognizing that his death was certain as he challenged the Empire of Rome and the leaders of the Synagogue for their oppressive behaviors and unjust persecution.**

**As your people, we gather in the power of Divine Spirit. As followers of Jesus, we seek to live as wise and Spirit-filled people: courageous, prophetic, ever hope-filled as we answer your call to serve one another.**

**Joan M.**

**Sacred Spirit, we remember the unknown woman brought before Jesus and shamed publicly. We remember all women who are misjudged because they speak truth to power as they speak about**

**the abuse of women and children. We remember our sister priests, strong extraordinary women: Adele, Judy, Tish, Joan, Michele, Sally and Georgia. We remember, too, family members, friends, and members of our MMOJ. We remember all those whose lives have been lost to war, especially the people of Ukraine and other war torn countries. All are beloved souls who have blessed our lives and who continue to inspire us.**

**Joan P.**

**We invoke Your Spirit upon these gifts of this Eucharistic table, bread of the grain and wine of the grape, that they may become gifts of wisdom, light and truth which remind us of our call to be the body of Christ to the world.**

**We rejoice, O Holy One, as we join the lineage of Your prophets of justice and peace. We, your daughters, and sons, continue to work with your grace as we arise and walk forward in the footsteps of our brother, the nonviolent Jesus.**

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

***(Together we lift our plate of bread as we pray)***

**Dotty S.**

**When Jesus returned to his place at the table, he lifted the Passover bread, spoke the blessing, broke the bread, and offered it to them saying:**

**Take and eat of the Bread of Life  
Given to strengthen you  
Whenever you remember me like this  
I am among you. (pause)**

***(Let us together lift our cup as we pray)***

**Joan P.**

**Jesus then raised a cup of blessing, spoke the grace, and offered the wine saying:**

***Take and drink of the covenant made new again through my life in you. Whenever you remember me like this, I am among you.***

**This is the bread of life and cup of blessing.**

**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.**

***Receive Bread and Cup now with the words:  
"You are the face of God"***

**Communion Song and Reflection: Quiet Place by The Many**  
<https://youtu.be/hcq385i1kHE>

**Anna Davis:**

**Let us pray the prayer of Jesus:**

**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)*

**Joan P.**

**We are called to do everything Jesus did, to be the living presence of a love that does justice, of a compassion that heals and liberates, of a joy that generates laughter, of a light that illumines right choices and confronts the darkness of every injustice and inequity.**

**So, we trust you to continue to share with us your own Spirit, the Spirit that filled Jesus, for it is through his life and teaching, his**

**loving and healing all honor and glory is yours, O Holy One, forever and ever. Amen**

**Mary Al: Before we leave let us offer one another a Sign of Peace:**

**Joan P.**

**Prayers of Gratitude, Introductions and Announcements**

### **Blessing**

**Dotty S.**

**Let us raise our hands and bless each other with the words:.**

**May you be blessed with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships.**

**May you seek truth boldly and love deeply within your heart.**

**May you continue to be the face of the Holy One to all you meet.**

**May your name be a blessing in our time.**

**Closing Song: May the Greatest Love by Kathy Sherman**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVC4ec97IUc&list=RDMM&index=2>**