

**Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community  
Liturgy for the Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 7, 2022**



Presiders: Bridget Mary Meehan and Beth Ponce; Readers: Mary Kay Staudohar and Jim Brandi; Prayer Leaders: Mary Al Gagnon and Jerry Bires, Music: Linda Lee Miller, IT Peg Bowen, Cheryl Brandi, and Rick Miller

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85108095506?pwd=Y3IyS0xkaWZlWGRUOXlZMm5qcE1Fdz09> (Bridget – there are two links listed here)

Zoom link for video - 4:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81534075389?pwd=TTdGY2NxB3AzTW13ODJESkdYME9aUT09>

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)

**Beth:** Introduction

We warmly welcome you and are happy you have joined us in our second hybrid liturgy at St. Andrew and on Zoom. We are all one community, living and loving in the goodness of our Creator. We wish all Mothers a blessed and happy Mother's Day!

We invite you to pray the liturgy and respond where it says “ALL.” All Zoom participants will be muted during the liturgy, except for the readers and prayer leaders for their parts. If you would like to make a comment at our shared Homily time or time of introductions, on Zoom, please raise your hand, and the IT leader will alert presider. Our goal is to alternate at the Shared Homily between Zoom and those present at St. Andrew. At St. Andrew’s, please raise your hand and we will pass the mic to you. It is important to use the microphone so you can be heard on Zoom. Please have bread and wine/juice nearby on Zoom as we pray our Eucharistic prayer at home. Please be patient as we are trying our best to make it work!

**Opening Song:** Companions on the Journey with Carey Landry, Video by Bridget Mary Meehan  
<https://youtu.be/DYF0C7fQp64>

Greeting:

**Bridget Mary:** We begin our liturgy in the name of our Creator, the Source of all being, and of the Son, eternal Word, and of the Holy Spirit, Sophia Wisdom.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Bridget Mary:** My sisters and brothers, God is with us.

**ALL: God is with us Indeed!**

Opening Prayer:

**Bridget Mary:** We are companions on the journey through whom God is speaking today. Let us pray that we may listen to the voice of the Holy One speaking in our relationships, challenging situations and chaos of our world.

Transformation Rite:

**Beth:** We pause now to remember the times we have not born fruit in caring for self and others. Take a moment to recall one missed opportunity, one broken or damaged relationship.

(Pause briefly and extend your arm over your heart)

**Beth and all: As we ask for and receive forgiveness, we open our hearts to Infinite Love embracing and healing us**

**Let it be so, Yes, Alleluia!**

**Gloria** by Marty Haugen - video by Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Theresa Streck  
<https://youtu.be/udjH7EON5IY>

## **Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading:

**Jim Brandi:** A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13, 14, 43-52

Paul and Barnabas traveled on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. On the Sabbath day, they entered the synagogue and sat down. When the meeting finally broke up, many worshippers and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to hold fast to the grace of God.

The following sabbath, almost the entire city gathered to hear the word of God. When the members of the synagogue saw the crowds, they became very jealous and countered with violent abuse whatever Paul said. Paul and Barnabas spoke out fearlessly nonetheless: 'The word of God has to be declared to you first of all; but since you reject it and thus convict yourselves as unworthy of everlasting life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For thus were we instructed by God: 'I have made you a light to the nations, a means of salvation to the ends of the earth.'

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and responded to the word of God with praise. All who were destined for life everlasting believed in it. The word of God was carried throughout that area.

But the members of the synagogue worked upon some of the leading men and women of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So, the two shook the dust from their feet in protest and went on to Iconium; but their disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

These are the inspired words from the Acts of the Apostles and we respond,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

**Mary Kay: Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 100

**Response All: Alleluia**

Sing a joyful song to the Beloved  
all peoples of the earth!  
Serve Love with a glad heart!  
Join hands in the great Dance of Life!

Response: Alleluia

Know that the Beloved of your heart  
is the Divine Presence!  
Love created us  
And we belong to the Most High:  
We are born to be loving expressions

Of the Creator's Divine Plan.

Response: Alleluia

Open the gates of your heart  
with gratitude  
And enter Love's court with praise!  
Give thanks to the Beloved,  
Bless Love's Holy Name!

Response: Alleluia

For Love is of God and lives  
In your heart forever,  
With faith, truth and joy now  
And in all that is to come.  
Alleluia, Amen!

Response: Alleluia

Second Reading:

**Mary Kay:** "Companioning"

Companioning is about being present to another person's pain; it is not about taking away the pain.

Companioning is about going to the wilderness of the soul with another human being; it is not about thinking you are responsible for finding the way out.

Companioning is about honoring the spirit; it is not about focusing on the intellect.

Companioning is about listening with the heart; it is not about analyzing with the head.

Companioning is about bearing witness to the struggles of others; it is not about judging or directing those struggles.

Companioning is about walking alongside; it is not about leading or being led.

Companioning means discovering the gifts of the sacred silence; it is not about filling up every moment with words.

Companioning is about respecting disorder and confusion; it is not about imposing order and logic.

Companioning is about learning from others; it is not about teaching them.

These are the inspired words of Alan Wolfelt and we respond,

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Alle, Alle, Alleluia:** Linda Lee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID5UGWcS6Ws>

Gospel:

**Beth:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: “my sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Abba, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Holy One’s embrace. In God, we are all one.

**Bridget Mary:** Homily

Community Sharing: *(remember, if you would like to make a comment, on Zoom, please raise your hand, and the IT leader will alert presidet. Our goal is to alternate between Zoom and those present at St. Andrew. At St. Andrew’s, please raise your hand and we will pass the mic to you.)*

Statement of Faith:

**Mary Al and ALL:**

We believe in God, the creator and lover of all. We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who shows us how to live in the fullness of God’s love. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who empowers us with spiritual gifts for loving service of our sisters and brothers. We believe in Shekinah, God’s dwelling among the people. We believe in Sophia, Holy Wisdom, leading us to justice, and equality. We believe in Christ Sophia, nourishing us with abundant life as the Body of Christ at the table, on the table and around the table at the Banquet of love.

*(Source: Bridget Mary Meehan)*

### **Prayers of the Community**

**Jerry B:** As we prepare for the sacred meal, we pray for the needs of the people of God in our community and around the world. Please feel free to voice your concerns beginning with the words “I bring to the table....”

**Response to each prayer: Amen**

**Joan M:** MMOJ Book of Intentions

Please share your spontaneous prayers beginning with the words, “I bring to the table....” .

*(as a reminder, please wait for those on Zoom to add their intentions before concluding)*

**Jerry B:** We give thanks for all whom we held in the circle of grace and will continue to pray for and serve. **ALL: Amen.**

## **Liturgy of Eucharist**

### **Preparation of the Gifts**

**Bridget Mary:** Blessed are You, O Holy One, through Your divine providence we have this bread to offer, it will become for us the Bread of Life.

**ALL: Blessed are You forever.**

**Beth:** Blessed are You, O Holy One, through Your divine providence we have this wine to offer, it will become our spiritual drink.

**ALL: Blessed are You forever.**

**Bridget Mary:** Nurturing One, we are united in this sacrament by the love of Jesus in communion with all who proclaim the liberating power of your Spirit, rising in our midst.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **Preface: Eucharistic Prayer**

**Jerry B.:** O Heart of Love, You dwell in us,

**Mary Al and ALL:** And we dwell in You.

**Jerry B:** O Pursuer of Justice, You speak truth through us,

**Mary Al and ALL:** In service to our sisters and brothers.

**Jerry B:** O Source of All Life, in you we live and move and have our being,

**Mary Al and ALL:** All the days of our lives.

**Jerry B:** Your Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, is rising up in our struggling world. Just as the Holy One enveloped Jesus at the end of the darkness of death, we too can trust that God will have the last word in our lives as indeed God had the first, as we join the angels, and saints and all people in joyful praise for the gift of life.

**Holy, Holy, Holy** (Karen Drucker) Linda Lee Miller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orKBBIj5LZA>

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

**Beth:** O Heart of Love, Your Spirit moved through Mary of Magdala and the Easter women as they stood by the broken body of Jesus and encountered the Risen One. Your Spirit moves through us as we serve the broken body of Christ rising up in love in our world today.

*Please extend Your hands in blessing.*

**Bridget Mary and ALL:**

Pour out Your spirit anew upon this bread and wine and upon us as we become more deeply the Christ Presence in our world.

On the night before he died, Jesus came to table with the women and men he loved. Jesus took bread blessed and broke it, saying, “Take, eat, this is my body. Do this in memory of me.”

*Pause*

**Beth and ALL:**

After supper, Jesus poured a cup of wine and shared it with his friends, saying, “This is the cup of the covenant of my love. As often as You drink of it, remember me.”

*Pause*

**Beth and ALL:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died in all who have died.

Christ is rising within us each moment.

Christ comes again and again everywhere each day.

**Mary Al:** Embracing Presence, we remember all the companions who have gone before us: Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mary of Magdala, and all holy women and men who rise up in loving service to transform our world. For it is through living as Jesus lived, and loving as he loved, that we awaken to Your Spirit empowering us to work for justice.

Great Amen by Linda Lee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy76fpfkNsg>

## **Communion Rite:**

### The Prayer of Jesus

**Jerry B:** 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*

### Sign of Peace

**Mary and ALL:** Jesus said to his disciples, “My peace I leave You. My peace I give You.” The peace of the Holy One is also with You.

Let us sing this beautiful song of peace especially for peace between Russia and Ukraine that our sister, Mindy wrote>

Peace Throughout the Land by Mindy Lou Simmons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rmFnIrfKs>

**Beth:** Please join in praying the Litany for the Breaking of the Bread:

**Beth and ALL:**

Holy One, You call us to speak truth to power; we will do so.

Holy One, You call us to live the Gospel of healing and justice; we will do so.

Holy One, You call us to be Your presence in the world; we will do so.

**Bridget Mary:**

This is the bread of life and the cup of blessing. Blessed are we who are called to the table. We are the Body of Christ.

Communion Song: A Mother’s Day Prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Od8Ydh4UvA>

## **Prayer after Communion**

**Beth:** Divine Presence, we are strengthened by sharing this Sacred meal as community. We go forth to care for the broken-hearted, sick, lonely and grieving in our midst. Bless our companioning ministries. Bless all mothers. And together we say,

**ALL: Amen**

**Bridget Mary:** Gratitude, Introductions, Announcements

## **Concluding Rite**

**Bridget Mary:** The Holy One is within You.

**ALL:** And also within You.

**Bridget Mary:** Please extend your hands as we pray our final blessing:

May we be companions on the journey.

May we call each other to extravagant generosity!

May the energy of Spirit rise up within us to heal and transform our church and world.

Closing Song: Dance Then Wherever You May Be

[https://youtu.be/L6R6\\_Qz6\\_dU](https://youtu.be/L6R6_Qz6_dU)

~~~~~  
Eucharistic Prayer written by Dr. Bridget Mary Meehan

Please send MMOJ donations to:  
St. Andrew United Church of Christ  
6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL 34238