



**Community of St. Bridget**  
*an inclusive catholic experience*

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 18-19, 2025**

Liturgist: Mary Eileen Collingwood



journeywithjesus.net

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**Suggestion:** *Please provide a piece of bread and cup of wine/juice, and a copy of this liturgy so that you can fully participate.*

Come in. Come into this place which we make special by our presence. Where the ordinary is sanctified, the human is celebrated, the compassionate is expected.

**ALL:** Together we make it a holy place with our every act of celebration.

With the flame of St. Bridget's fire, we proclaim the transformative power of God. Christ's Spirit is alive and living among us. May the fire of this light continue to shine! Amen.

Opening Song: **At This Table** – by Idina Menzel © 2019 SRV Label Co, LLC; Video Production: Jorge Velez; Vocal Artist: Selah.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gs4q\\_9MrHa0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gs4q_9MrHa0) (lyric/video)

At this table, everyone is welcome  
At this table, everyone is seen  
At this table, everybody matters  
No one falls between  
At this table, you can say whatever

At this table, you can speak your  
mind  
At this table, everything's forgiven  
There's enough for everyone

So come as you are  
Remember that the door is always open  
Yes, come as you are  
The perfect gift that you can bring is your heart  
So, come, come as you are.

At this table, there will be no judgment  
At this table, mercy has a seat  
At this table, we're all sons and daughters  
There's no place I'd rather be

So come as you are  
Remember that the door is always open  
Yes, come as you are  
The perfect gift that you can bring is your heart  
Come, come as you are  
Come as you are.

At this table, everyone is welcome  
At this table, everybody cares  
At this table, everybody matters  
So, come, pull up a chair.

Our scripture readings today remind us that we are a covenant people who must not be silenced. Justice will reign; good will triumph over evil. We pray for the ability to see the signs of God's indwelling among us as we begin our prayer in the name of the Divine: Source of All Being, Eternal Word and +Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Transformation Rite

As we prepare to celebrate this sacred meal and acknowledge all that prevents us from accepting God's loving forgiveness and healing touch, let us be open to the transformative power of our indwelling God:

**ALL:** Loving Spirit, heal our hearts:

1. Fill our newly opened eyes and hearts with the clear vision of your loving light.

**ALL:** Loving Spirit, heal our hearts:

2. Fill our ears with the call to become your voice in our countries and in our world that are so in need of your care.

**ALL:** Loving Spirit, heal our hearts:

3. Fill our souls with the agility to respond to the touch of your Spirit, moving us to act and to serve in your name.

**ALL:** Loving Spirit heal our hearts:

4. Remove from us all that hinders, all that makes us blind, deaf, lame and voiceless, so that we have room for the life with which you want to fill us. Amen.

GLORIA:

5. Glory to the Spirit of Life, to the Holy One who surrounds us, who lives with us, whose Sacred Word is shared by us in our world.
6. Glory to the Spirit of Life, who offers us peace; peace in our hearts, peace in our thoughts, peace with one another as we reach out to bring that peace to our cities, states, countries, and world.
7. Glory to the Spirit of Life, who offers guidance to our nations and world leaders, both religious and civil, to serve their people in just and loving ways.
1. Glory to the Spirit of Life, who sent Jesus who teaches us how to live the Gospels, who brings hope and healing to all those in need. May it be so.

**ALL:** O Holy One, you are one with us. We strive to be strong in our faith and live life in hope and faithfulness to you, to be committed to the message of the Gospels. We depend upon the ever-present Spirit to walk with us as we journey in the present and rejoice in the life before us. Amen.

Opening Prayer (inspired by the writings of *If Darwin Prayed* by Bruce Sanguin)

All Embracing Giver of Life, may we continue to yearn for the sacred simplicity of awakening to a living universe, to love, and to the joy of living simply within the signs and miracles of the here and now, and the time yet to come. Through our prayer today, may we come to see more clearly who we really are: part of the sacred creation awakening to itself, the mind of the planet fetching a new future, your living heart pulsing with possibility. Amen.

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD\*

*We experience the Spirit of Our Living God as we listen to the Scripture readings broken open and shared by all.*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 62: 1-5 (adapted)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

For Zion's sake, I will not be silent;  
for the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest—  
Not until her integrity shines like the dawn,

her deliverance like a flaming torch.  
Then nations will see your vindication,  
and the rulers your splendor,  
You will have a new name  
that Yahweh's mouth will bestow.  
You will be a garland of beauty in Yahweh's hands,  
a solemn crown worn by your God.  
Never again will you be called Forsaken.  
Never again will your land be called Desolate.  
But you will be called My Delight,  
and your land will be bound to Yahweh.  
For Yahweh will take delight in you  
And your land will be joined with God in covenant.  
For just as the young couple marry,  
You will be forever married to this land.  
As the newly married couple rejoice over each other,  
So will Yahweh rejoice over you.

The inspired words of the prophet, Isaiah. Amen.

**Responsorial:** Psalm 96

**Cantor:** *Proclaim to all of the nations, the marvelous deeds of our God!*

Sing to Our God a new Song! Sing to Our God, all the earth!  
Sing to Our God, bless God's Name. **R**

Proclaim God's presence day after day, tell of God's glory among the nations.  
Tell God's marvels to every people. **R**

Pay tribute to Our God, families of the people,  
Tribute to the God of glory and love. Lift up your hearts before God. **R**

Worship Our God in our sacred universe, revere Our God all the earth!  
Say among the nations, "The Holy One is our Rock!"  
Our God will assure justice to all the nations. **R**

**Cantor:** Alleluias

**Second Reading – Gospel:** John 2: 1-11a

A reading from the Holy Gospel attributed to John:

A wedding took place at Cana of Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. And the wine ran out. So, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine." Responding, Jesus said, "Mother, what concern of that is ours? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the wedding servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now, standing there were six stone water jars, intended to hold water for ritual cleansing: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. Continuing, Jesus instructed, "Now draw some out and take it to the head steward of the feast." They did so.

When the head steward tasted the water, it had turned into wine. Not knowing its source, (though the servants knew), the head steward of the feast called to the bride and bridegroom and said, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests are well wined, but you have saved the best wine for last." This was the first of Jesus' signs.

The inspired words of the evangelist, John. Amen.

**Cantor:** Alleluias

*To commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we offer an excerpt of his writings for reflection.*

**Third Reading:** An excerpt from Martin Luther King, Jr's Letter from Birmingham Jail:

When I was suddenly catapulted into the leadership of the bus protest... I felt we would be supported by the white church. I felt that the white ministers, priests and rabbis of the South would be among our strongest allies... [and] would serve as the channel through which our just grievances could reach the power structure... Instead, some have been outright opponents, refusing to understand the freedom movement and misrepresenting its leaders; all too many others have been more cautious than courageous and have remained silent behind the anesthetizing security of stained glass windows...

I have heard numerous southern religious leaders admonish their worshipers to comply with a desegregation decision because it is the law, but I have longed to hear white ministers declare: "Follow this decree because integration is morally right and because the Negro is your brother (your sister, your sibling)"...

... How does one determine when a law is just or unjust? A just law is a [hu]man-made code that squares with the moral law, or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law. Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust. All segregation statutes are unjust because segregation distorts the soul and damages the personality...

So often the contemporary church is a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. So often it is an arch-defender of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the

average community is consoled by the church's silent--and often even vocal--sanction of things as they are. ...If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity...

The inspired words of a Modern Prophet. Amen.

Shared Homily: Mary Eileen

Every thing, every person, every creature ever born came into this world in relationship with something or someone. There is a unity present that *connects* all of God's handiwork. This is portrayed well in the Book of Genesis which begins with humans living in the Creator's presence in the Garden of Eden, a divinely gifted land. It was like the land God promised to the Hebrew people that they referred to as the Promised Land. It was in this land that they found the dwelling place of their God.

In our reading from Isaiah, we come to appreciate the strong *connection* between Jerusalem's need for deliverance and the hand of God at work. The people and land would be bound to Yahweh in holy covenant, never again to be called desolate. They were given a new name and a reason to rejoice!

John's Gospel tells the story of Jesus changing water into wine so that the couple would not be without wine and embarrassed in front of their wedding guests. Mary knew her son could make this happen—*connecting* the fruitful gift of Jesus' word over the water accomplished what was needed. This is yet another example of the God of deliverance showing up, saving the people from shame and raising them up with joy. A new covenant, another sacred bond, a renewed *connection* as a reason to rejoice!

The Body of Christ is truly on display in the words and actions of Martin Luther King Jr. through his preaching and active ministry. *Connecting* the Christ Body with human bodies is not a difficult leap. What was central to MLK's faith was that his ministry and work be anchored in the Law of Love. Christ's presence among us depends heavily on believers making that *connection* of unity between the Body of Christ and the formation of the Beloved Community.

The Book of Revelation ends with humans living in God's presence in a fully renewed land, rescued by God's compassion. Call it the New Eden, the Beloved Community, the Center of God's Mercy. As we gather at our tables today, Mercy has a seat alongside us because we have more work to do and more roads to travel. We attend this wedding banquet, this union of hope and possibility apparent in Isaiah, John's Gospel, and MLK's vision as our dance continues.

*How has the land and the goodness God provides supported you in your relationship with others?*

Holding these thoughts in the sacred space among us and strengthened by the support of one another, we now proclaim our affirmation of faith:

### Affirmation of Faith

2. We believe that where people are gathered together in love, God is present, and good things happen and life is full.
3. We believe that we are immersed in mystery, that our lives are more than they seem, that we belong to each other and to a universe of great creative energies, whose source and destiny is God.
4. We believe that through Mary's resolve, the Spirit of God beat in the heart of Jesus of Nazareth, and God's good news was heard by the broken and wounded.
5. We are glad that the Spirit of peace is present with us, the church, as we gather to celebrate our common existence, and the fidelity of God.
6. And most deeply we believe that in our struggle to love, we incarnate God in the world.
7. And so aware of mystery and wonder, caught in friendship and laughter, we become speechless before the joy in our hearts as we celebrate the sacredness of life in this bread broken and cup poured out to be shared by all. Amen.

### Prayer of the Faithful

This is the day before the US presidential inauguration. Working for unity through non-violent resistance as MLK did may be helpful as our reality—both local and global—appears similar to the tension and strife people experienced in the time Jesus lived. So, for a deeper coming of Christ in our world, let us offer our prayers. Our response remains: ***We awaken to your call.***

*For whom and for what shall we pray?*

Eternal Source of Life, help us to discover how we can be most useful in bringing your message of love and inclusion to reality. May we work unceasingly to share your love and our faith in you with everyone, especially those who have lost any hope that justice will one day exist for all of us. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### Sign of Peace

As we prepare this sacred meal, we reaffirm that just as Jesus was anointed, so is each of us. And so, we celebrate our Creator's fruitful love as we extend our blessing to one another with joy. May the peace that our brother, Jesus, offers, be always with us!

### Offertory (Raise bread and cup)

We place on our plate the harvest to be won by labor's love. And into the cup we pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from Earth's fruits.

**ALL:** O Gracious God, giver of the gifts we bring, receive them from your church gathered here today, affirming the sacrament of your Presence among us.

The Holy One is with us, abounding in Love!

1. We open our hearts in Christ, who lives and loves, heals and empowers through us, and give thanks to the Source of All Life.
2. O Loving God, you bring to birth the world of our dreams for mutual respect and partnership. Give us courage to act justly and work collaboratively to change systems that keep people poor and marginalized in our society.
3. We thank you for the women and men who are working for justice and equality in our church and world. Your gift of the Spirit gives us hope that one day, through our unselfish work in your vineyard, all will be living in peace and harmony within your Kingdom.
4. With thankful hearts in the company of the angels, saints and all souls created in your love, O God of Abundance and Welcome, we praise you in song:

***Here in This Place*** by Christopher Grundy; Album: Come to the Feast; Licensed to YouTube by CD Baby; BMG Rights Management (US), LLC, ASCAP, BMI - Broadcast Music Inc., and 3 Music Rights Societies (adapted)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgkWXOSGmOQ> (lyric/video)

Holy One, may your presence here open our minds  
may your Spirit among us help us to find  
you are rising up now like a fountain of grace  
from the holy ground here in this place. Here in this place.

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty  
the whole universe speaks of your glory  
from the holy ground here in this place. Here in this place.



5. Creator God, we see around us the work of your hands, the fruit of your wisdom and love. The unfolding story of creation witnesses unceasingly to your creative power. We, your creatures, often deviate from that wisdom, hindering your creative presence in our midst.
6. Sending among us Jesus, our Light and Hope, you birth afresh in our world the power of Sophia Wisdom, and in the gift of the Spirit, your creative goodness blooms anew, amid the variety and wonder of life.

**ALL:** Loving God, we celebrate your Spirit's +transformative energy within this bread and fruit of the vine given to nurture afresh in us the discerning gifts of wisdom, light and truth.

7. We remember all the courageous companions who have gone before us, the holy women and men who have lived lives of love and service in the midst of hatred, violence and injustice. They are ever-present with us at this Table of Friendship.

At this gathering, we take bread, as Jesus took bread, and we remember, as Jesus remembered, the constant presence of the Spirit of Life and Love. And Jesus offers this bread to us now, saying: **(All raise bread)**

**ALL:** *Take and eat, this is my very Self given to you.*

When supper ends, Jesus takes the cup, speaks the grace, and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise cup)**

**ALL:** *Take and drink this cup of my life, the life of the new and everlasting covenant. It is poured out for you and for all, so that you might be free. Whenever you re-member me like this, I am among you.*

In sharing this bread and cup, let us embrace the Gospel of justice and peace as we proclaim:

**ALL:** Nurtured by your word, nourished by your food;  
Called anew to be your people, we acclaim your praise!

1. As we celebrate this sacred meal, we recall the wise and gracious gifts bestowed on us down through the ages; and we look forward in hope, knowing that you, our wise and faithful God, will continue to endow us with abundant blessings.

**(Raise bread and cup)**

**ALL:** For it is through learning to live as Jesus lived,  
And why he lived,  
And for whom he lived,  
That we awaken to your Spirit within,  
Moving us to worship you truly,

Life-giving God,  
At this time, and all time, and in all ways. **Cantor:** Amen

### Communion Rite

In the power of this Eucharistic meal, O Divine Spirit, and in union with all peoples, we unite our thoughts and prayers, asking for wisdom and courage:

2. To discern more wisely the Spirit's call to us in the circumstances of our daily lives;
3. To act justly and courageously in confronting the pain and suffering that desecrates our Earth and its peoples;
4. To take risks in being creative and proactive on behalf of the poor and marginalized.

### **(Presider raises bread and cup)**

This is the Bread and Cup of Life, through which we are nourished and we nourish one another.

**ALL:** We receive this bread and cup as the presence of Christ among us!

*All are welcome to receive at our Tables of Friendship!*

Communion Meditation: **Let Nothing Disturb You** by Garth Hewitt  
(prayer of St. Teresa of Avila's - adapted) Music & words of Nada te turbe & verse1 Jacques Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé (A&PT), . Verses 2, 3, 4 & Chorus Garth Hewitt © 2019  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8aq35y8UNk> (video)

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten  
Everything passes  
But God remains  
God stays beside you  
God your companion  
Closer than breathing  
God still remains **R**

**Refrain:** God remains – God still  
remains  
Light in the darkness  
Voice of the voiceless  
God still remains  
God remains – God still  
remains  
Bringer of justice  
Friend to the outcast  
God still remains – God  
remains

God of mercy  
God of peace  
God of love  
And Love still remains

God of hope  
God of grace  
God of love  
And Love still remains **R**

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten  
Everything passes  
But God remains

Nada te turbe, (nothing trouble you)  
Nada te espante (nothing scares you)  
Solo Dios basta (God is sufficient)

*Together we pray to God as Jesus did:*

5. 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.
6. Each day you give us all that we need;  
You remind us of our limits, and we let go.  
You support us in our power, and we act with courage.
7. For you are the dwelling place within us,  
The empowerment around us,  
And the celebration among us, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer: (adapted words from *If Darwin Prayed* by Bruce Sanguin)

O Holy One, we now turn, as Mary did, to the One who makes room for all, human and other-than-human, at the banquet of life. From Jesus' heart there flows an unexpected abundance that spills over into our own. By the grace of the Spirit, through our own extravagant offerings of love, we become living hints in a hurting world that at this wedding of hope and possibility, the dancing has just begun. Amen.

### Announcements

Blessing: *Please extend your hands for our mutual blessing:*

**ALL:** May the Divine Light nurture our dreams.  
May we unfurl the ribbon of light that is the Divine in us.  
May our light shine for all to see.  
May we be a blessing in our time!

Held together by Love Divine,  
clothed with the nature of Jesus our Companion,  
and reinforced by the strength of the +Holy Spirit,  
we go forth in love and service to others. Amen.

Closing Song: ***I Am for You*** by Rory Cooney; Provided to YouTube by NAXOS of America;  
Rory Cooney Vision © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cMxLCOmwMw> (lyric/video)

There is a mountain there is a sea. There is a wind within all breathing.  
There is an arm to break ev'ry chain. There is a fire in all things living.  
There is a voice that speaks from the flame:

**Refrain:** I am for you, I am for you, I am for you is my name.  
(let it be... to the end... evermore... we are one.)

There was a woman small as a star. Full of the patient dreams of her nation.  
Welcoming in an angel of God, welcoming in God's bold invitation.  
"Let it be done," she sang, "unto me." **R**

There was a man who walked in the storm, caught in between  
the waves and the lightning,  
sharing his bread with those cast aside, healing by touch  
the lost and the dying.  
Sending us forth, he says to his friends: **R**

We are anointed, servants of God; we have been born again of Spirit.  
We are the word God speaks to the world,  
freedom and light to all who will hear it.  
So let us be the Word of our God: **R**

There is a world that waits in the womb; there is a hope unborn God is bearing,  
Though the powers of death prowls the night,  
there is a day our God is preparing.  
Sing 'round the fire to waken the dawn: **R**

***Thank you for your courage to worship with us in the spirit of  
equality and justice!***

***You are welcome to bring a friend and join us again, supporting this  
Community with your presence and prayer!***

\*First Reading and Psalm taken from the Inclusive Lectionary Cycle C – Quixote Center, MD.  
Gospel Reading and excerpt from MLK taken from the Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary  
made available through the Women's Ordination Conference.