

Called by Name: A Prayer Service for the Feast of St. Mary of Magdala

Gathering Rite

People and ministers gather, with the presider moving to an appropriate place. On this evening, it is a good sign for the presider to be a woman. Another good sign is the sharing of the Gospel and homily by a woman and a man. The presider welcomes everyone on this feast of the first disciple of the risen Lord and invites the gathered community to do the same.

Introductory Rites: Please stand.

Opening Hymn: “The Summons”, text by John Bell, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

Greeting: Presider

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. or
In the name of God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Opening Prayer: Presider

Let us pray...
O God of life beyond imagining,
You call us each by name
to shatter the death of our self-imposed limits.
Tune us as your instruments,
that we might recognize You at every turn
and tenderly proclaim Your truth to a crucified world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Christ.
All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word: Please be seated.

First Reading: Proverbs 8:1-11

Psalm: “Shepherd me, O God” A version of psalm 23, text and music by Marty Haugen, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

Silence / Reflection

Alleluia: (Please stand.) Celtic Alleluia by Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, © 1985, Published by OCP Publications or other familiar refrain.

Gospel: John 20: 1-18

Homily

Prayers of Praise and Intercession

Sung Refrain: “Kyrie Eleison 1”, music by Jacques Berthier, © 1980, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent or another familiar refrain.

Refrain: Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison

In thanksgiving for all who come as Christ in disguise,
-the reconcilers who roll away the stones of mistrust and fear,
-the faithful friends who care enough to weep and are persistent enough to stay
-the prophets who are gardeners of every new creation.

Refrain: Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison

In supplication for all in need,
-the crucified of this world, including the terrorized in Kosovo,
-all those whom poverty holds captive,
-all the ones who squint into the darkness of empty lives,

Refrain: Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison

In recognition of our own needs,
-the courage to shatter denial with our tears,
-the wisdom not to cling to what was in order to make room for what can be,
-the love to create a Church more truly formed in the image of Jesus,
Child of Wisdom, the Christ,

Refrain: Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison

Rite of Naming

(Reflective music could include “Ubi Caritas”, music by Jacques Berthier, © 1979, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, “Song of the Body of Christ” or instrumental music.)

The presider leads people in a brief guided meditation, inviting everyone to hear themselves called by name by Jesus. By what name does Jesus call you? What else, if anything, does Jesus say? Then each person comes forward for the following conversation and laying on of hands. The presider begins, saying the words of the leader to the first participant, who in turn says the words of the leader to the next person, until all have been named.

Leader: By what name are you called?

Participant: I am called _____.

Leader: (With the laying on of hands) You are _____ and you are sent to proclaim the God of life, beyond all death.

Participant: Amen!

Closing Rites: Please stand.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Presider: God of Wisdom, Shepherd of Love,
You have called us by name
to shatter all that divides us and release the Christ in our midst.

All: (As you extend a hand of blessing on a person near you)
Pour out Your blessings on us, this night
So that, at the sound of our names, we turn and turn again,
Restless until we recognize You in disguise,
Driven to create the garden of your kingdom here and now,
As friends forever in service of Your loving justice. Amen!

Closing Hymn: "We Are Called", Music by David Haas, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc. or **"God Has Chosen Me"**, Music and text by Bernadette Farrell, published by OCP Publications.

Prayer Service designed by Gloria Ulterino, former Director of Women's Office, Diocese of Rochester, New York. 4/99