

## **FutureChurch 2024 Mary Magdalene Celebration: Women Witnesses to the Risen Christ**

### **Question for shared reflection:**

*In honor of our foremother who boldly proclaimed her witness to the Risen Christ, let us take a moment now to consider where we have encountered Christ in our midst and in our ministry. Where have you encountered the Risen Christ? Let us offer these moments in gratitude, and if you are willing and able to share them in the chat.*

### **Responses from our community:**

*As a sister of the Holy Cross and social worker, I encountered God in every person I see in therapy. Accompanying people overcoming trauma is a healing miraculous experience I feel humble to witness.*

*I witness the risen Christ in all present here...including me...As we walk this journey*

*The tender outreach of people is Jesus touching me...*

*In creation and children*

*As I listened to each woman proclaim her witness to night!*

*In the rising sun and the singing of the birds*

*Through all the women who spoke tonight and through the songs. God Bless you all.*

*Every follower of Jesus who persists in being open to the body of Christ in everyone, in the face of messages of exclusion and judgment.*

*In the people I share the word with as I lector and those I serve when I am a Eucharistic Minister*

*In the people of God who stand in their truth and speak it to power*

*I have encountered the Risen Christ in the Hope and Grace given to widows and widowers who surrender their grief to the Lord.*

*In the existence of Future Church*

*In the memory of my parents who loved Christ and taught us to follow Him, and, in music, always in music.*

*In the Eucharist, breaking bread with friends, in the beauty of creation, and the beauty of faithful women.*

*In that one more story, that someone so much needs to share with me.*

*In the visionary women of our time!!!*

*In the faith of those present here, who see hope and love.*

*In the courage of women to proclaim their witness!*

*In today's prophets*

*In the smile of the homeless woman to whom I offered the Eucharist yesterday.*

*Through the personal sharings of our Resurrection Community in shared homilies.*

*In the fierce commitment of a young immigrant man who dropped into the parish office today, seeking support to improve his marriage and be a good father to his children when he was abandoned by his own father. The resurrection of breaking cycles of trauma with love and healing.*

*In paradox - my beautiful two great-grandsons - born "out of wedlock."*

*In the man from the Mideast who met me on his last day here in my neighborhood, told me of the struggles in his country of Saudi Arabia. I told him how I had witnessed a yearly dinner of Christians, Muslims and Jews as sons and daughters of Abraham. He was touched and I found a rose on my porch the next morning.*

*As Pope Francis tells of the Encounter, we meet Christ in everyone who we are privileged to be with...such as these women who profess their testimony. 🌻*

*If a young Catholic woman, remaining 'catholic', devoted to service and committed to the common good - is not a sign of Resurrection in the midst of despair - I don't know what is*

*In evolutionary consciousness personally and as a collective in many places and situations*

*I encounter Christ in the residents at the Assisted Living facility where I lead Communion Services and in the dedicated staff.*

*Read Heidi Strate's reflection on this Gospel. It's beautiful. We used it last night in our Mary Magdalene service at Epiphany Catholic Church in Louisville, KY*

*Christ is in our music ministry. Thank you, Russ.*

*In my prayer group at St Paul's... a faith filled group of women*

*At a dinner table with people whom I love.*

*In all those whom I serve, by God's grace, Jesus' love, and in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God—always!*

*In the lives of the migrant workers who come to mass in a foreign land and witness to their faith*

*We have a global art project Artistic Bridges (with the Charter for Compassion) I feel Jesus pain in the art that the children in Ukraine are sharing.*

*In all those who work for social justice*

*In nature and people I care for as well as those I find difficult, and still care about.*

*In the joyous dancing of Martha Ann Kirk.*

*In children of Gaza*

*I have experienced the Risen Christ my whole life but more profoundly when my husband died and I felt Jesus' presence standing with me. He called me then to be a hospice volunteer.*

*In the woman I held who was sobbing because she had just received Eucharist.*

*I identify strongly with you who are transitioning from music ministry to pastoral care. I myself have discerned for a year where the Spirit wanted me to do after I was "invited" to retire. I am now in a new place and have been invited and called to become a pastoral visitor for our tri-parish community, bringing care and Holy Communion to those homebound brothers and sisters. I have been truly blessed. And I still get to sing for and with them!*

*I see the risen Christ in the blanket of mercy and Grace that is my life and life to my mother who just turned 100 a few days ago — in giving and receiving, caring and sharing love.*

*When words of welcome are finally spoken to those who have been left out*

*For those who share their stories of encounter*

*In the local Jewish community who allows me to singing Hebrew with them, and red the same stories that Mary Magdalen and Jesus grew up learning.*

*In the conservative and progressive beautiful people of our church!*

*In our brothers and sisters in prison*

*In Joe Biden's choice to step down and Kamala Harris' choice to step up*

*May we celebrate the life and ministry of Joe Biden, for all the work he has done for our country and the world.*

*I see Christ in the eyes of Palestinian men women and children*