

Closing Prayer

Leader: God of All Hopefulness, help us not to be discouraged but rather use the fire of the Holy Spirit to build equality and respect in our Church and in our world. We trust that your resurrection, first proclaimed by Mary of Magdala, is able to do more than we ask or imagine.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Empowered by the Spirit, inspired by the valiant women of our past, we go forth now to be proclaimers of the Word and witnesses to the ends of the earth making a Sign of the Cross. For we go within the love of the Creator in whose image we are made, and of the Eternal Word who speaks to us today, And of the Holy Spirit who gifts and empowers us,

ALL: Amen.

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Let us go now to love and serve our God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Hymn



Acknowledgements

Image: Bronze relief by Charity Sr. Margaret Beaudette depicts St. Mary of Magdala preaching.

Prayers adapted from 2017 brochure
<https://www.futurechurch.org/women-in-church-leadership/mary-of-magdala>



Apostle to the Apostles
Feast of Mary of Magdala
22 July

Opening Prayer

Leader: For Mary of Magdala who recognized the Risen Lord when he uttered her name. Who inspires us to step out in faith, to hold our heads high and to know we are loved beyond measure by our loving and gracious God....

ALL: Jesus, grant that the spirit of Mary of Magdala, our sister, be here with us today. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 20: 11-23

...but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there but she did not recognize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means beloved teacher.) Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary of Magdala went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

ALL: Mary of Magdala, woman whom Jesus loved much, woman entrusted with the Gospel, you were chosen as first to witness and to announce the Resurrection. Guide us in our pursuit of truth, service and equality in Christ, the Risen One.

Shared Reflection

What was it like to hear the story of Mary of Magdala's commissioning to "go and tell"?

What is Jesus asking you to "go and tell"? What truth are you being called to speak- either in word or deed? How have/will you respond?

Litany of Women of the Word

We join our voices with the women of the Church who proclaimed the good news through the ages. May our voices joined with theirs bring about a Church which embraces the inclusive ministry of Jesus:

Mary, mother of Jesus ... **pray with us**

The Samaritan woman, evangelizer ...

Mary of Magdala, apostle to the apostles...

Phoebe, the deacon ...

Prisca, the missionary ...

Lydia, leader of the first house-church in Europe ...

Catherine of Siena, speaker of truth to power ...

Hildegard of Bingen, mystic, abbess, and preacher ...

Rose of Viterbo, mystic and preacher of penance ...

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Servant of God ...

Caroline Chisolm, mother and humanitarian ...

Option: Invite participants to bless one another with water or oil and pray, "N., You are called by name. Go forth and proclaim, I have seen the Lord."