

Eucharist in celebration of Mary Ward and Christian Unity 24th January 2021

root &
branch



Image of Mary Ward Mainz General Chapter 2021

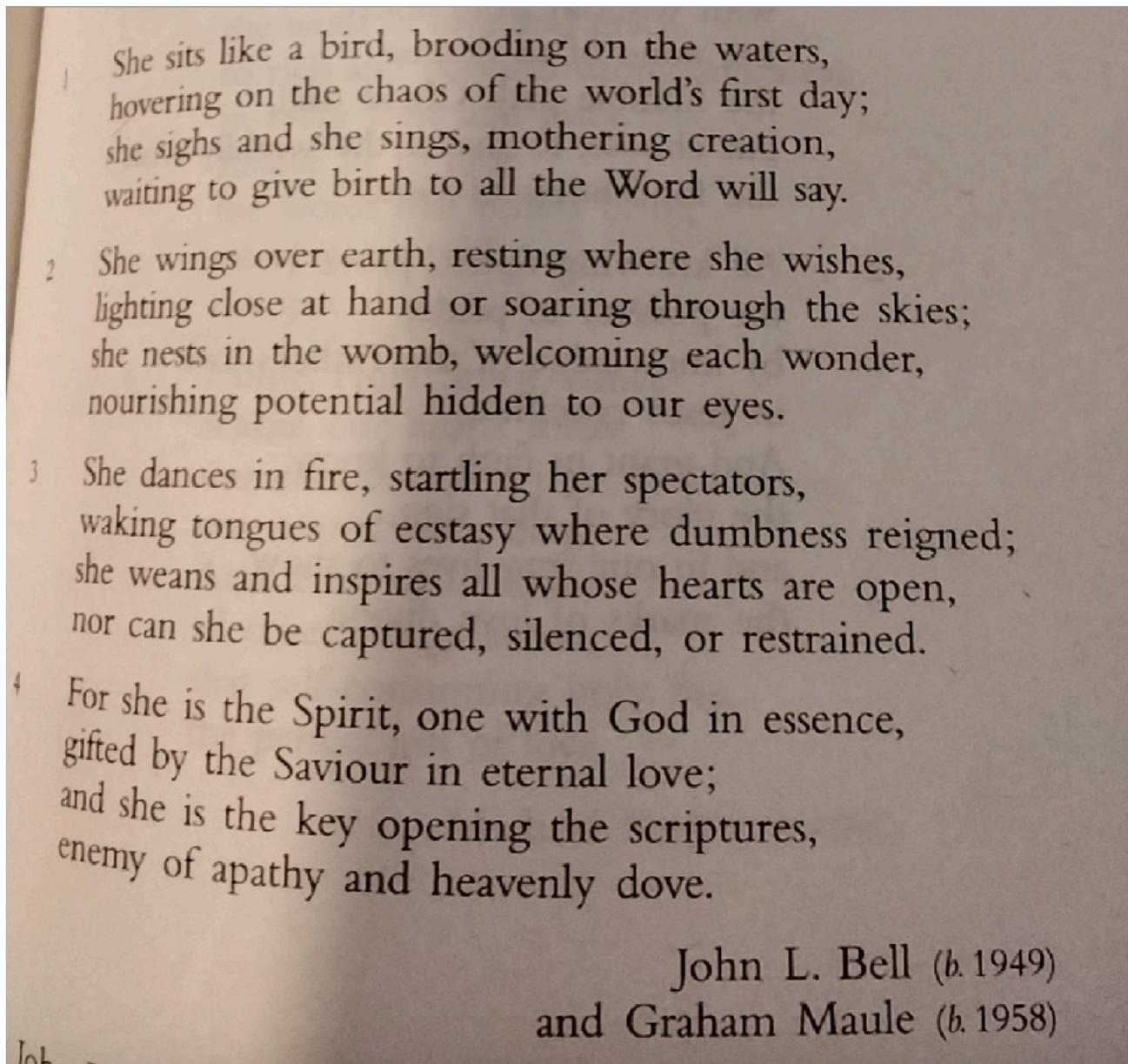
MR *Introduction and welcome! To avoid 'Zoombabble' we ask that you stay muted throughout the service. This means you can make all the responses - and sing along with abandon! We have drawn on long-established liturgies, such as Iona, WOC and others, with gratitude.*

*We need **volunteers**: 2 x Gospel, and 3 x Iona Creed, and Thanksgiving at end, please.*

We are recording to audio today - no images.

root &
branch





PM Come, Holy Spirit, breath divine

ALL *Open us for your presence*

PM Refresh and give life to what is exhausted and tired

ALL *Drive away fear out of our hearts*

PM Come, Holy Spirit, Wind Divine

ALL *Wake up our longing, create new beginning among us*

KP God, our mother and father, creator of women in your own image, loving foundation and heart of all beings, we are gathered here before you. Let us pray for all women around the world so that they may be blessed with:

*ALL The strength to persevere,
The courage to speak out,
The vision to seek a renewed ministry,
The faith to believe in you beyond
All systems and institutions,
so that your face on earth may be seen in all its beauty.*

KP We call on the holy and courageous women who went before us, to intercede for us so that we might be given the grace and vision to follow in their footsteps as we work together in solidarity for the ordination of women as priests, deacons, and bishops into an inclusive and accountable Catholic Church.

LITANY

Sue, Rhiannon and Mary

ALL respond to each saint's invocation in turn: Pray for us.

Saint Esther, who pleaded against power for the liberation of the people, *pray for us...*

Saint Deborah, lawwoman and judge, who led the people of God,

Saint Mary Magdalene, minister of Jesus, apostle to the Apostles,

Saint Clara of Assisi, who confronted the pope with the image of woman as equal,

Saint Julian of Norwich, who proclaimed for all of us, the motherhood of God,

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who felt God's call to become priest, prophet, and king,

Saint Catherine of Siena, to whom the pope listened,

Saint Teresa of Avila, who brought women's gifts to the reform of the church,

Saint Dorothy Day, who led the church to a new sense of justice,

Saint Theodore Guérin, who abandoned herself to the will of God in generous service to others,

Venerable Mary Ward, who brought creativity to express her visions of women's leadership in our Church,

Mary, mother of Jesus, who heard the call of God and answered, Mary, mother of Jesus, who drew strength from the woman Elizabeth, Mary, mother of Jesus, filled with God's Spirit,

Pray for us. Amen.

(Bridget Mary Meehan ARCWP and Joan Chittister OSB- shortened and adapted)



FROM the Painted Life of Mary Ward

Reading from John's Gospel John 15 1-16

The Vine and the Branches

Geoffrey

“I am the true vine, and my Creator is the gardener. God cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit God prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Volunteer 1

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to God's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Volunteer 2

“As the Creator has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept our Creator’s commands and remain in God’s love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know their master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Creator I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Creator will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Katharine: Reflection, and Shared Reflection *to which all are welcome to contribute*

Creed from the Iona Community **3 volunteers**

Sue We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

2. We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

3. We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond a safe place:
into action, into vulnerability
and onto the streets.

4. We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully
and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope.

Amen

We light a candle in our homes as we come to our time of intercession.

Katharine will introduce our time of **shared prayer**:

KS Today we especially honour those women whose gifts are best suited to serve your Church as ordained deacons and priests we gather with our sisters and brothers from around the world, seeking justice and an end to discrimination.

Loving God, empower these women with courage as they answer your call and strengthen them for humble service, great compassion, and insightful wisdom. Support them through their ministries and enlighten the leadership of your Church to practice the equality that Jesus modelled to embrace all women and men whom you have gifted for sacramental service.

5.

MR Strengthen your Holy Spirit within those you have chosen for ordained ministry. May they answer your call and follow you with generous hearts, knowing they are supported in the arms and hearts of those who believe in the justice of your work. May they find hope in the prophetic work of those who speak from conscience.

Loving God, today we thank you for Mary Ward, humble pioneer of education for women and inspiration for the future of women and girls today. Be present in all schools and colleges which take her name. We pray for the work of the Mary Ward family, especially in their work at the UN.

In this prayer for Christian Unity week, we pray for all churches as they seek to bring justice and renewal. We pray that women and men may work together for the vision of church where all are welcome.

Time of Intercession

*ALL Please feel free to share your own prayers here. Remember to **UNMUTE!**
Please be sensitive; only name publicly those who've given you permission to do so.*

6.

KS We ask this in the name of Jesus, who called Mary Magdalene, Mary Ward and Phoebe – as well as Peter and Paul – to be ministers in the early Christian communities.

All Amen.



KS *will explain our understanding of Eucharist*

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying,

All: *This is my body, given for you.*

SW In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying,

All: *This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it.*

SW Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world. Amen.

KP **An Iona blessing**

As the many threads are made one in the cloth,

As the many grains are made one in the bread,

As the many grapes are made one in the wine,

ALL *So we who are many are made one*

(from the Iona Community worship book)

KS As we sit around this table

Laid with the one cloth

And set with the one cup

And fed with the one loaf.

ALL *As Jesus did, so we do*

KS **invites us all to break bread**

We break this bread

(the bread is broken)

SW **invites us all to drink the cup**

We share this cup

(the cup is raised)

We believe that he who lived

Died and rose again for us

Will meet us here.

We receive our bread and wine/juice, and have a moment of quiet reflection.

Listen to the Deer's Cry, Lisa Kelly

I arise today through the strength of heaven
Light of sun, radiance of moon
Splendor of fire, speed of lightning
Swiftiness of wind, depth of the sea
Stability of earth, firmness of rock

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me
God's eye to look before me
God's wisdom to guide me
God's way to lie before me
God's shield to protect me

From all who shall wish me ill
Afar and a-near
Alone and in a multitude
Against every cruel, merciless power
That may oppose my body and soul

Christ with me, Christ before me
Christ behind me, Christ in me
Christ beneath me, Christ above me
Christ on my right, Christ on my left
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down
Christ when I arise, Christ to shield me
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me

I arise today

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Volunteer

On this first day of the week, we thank you for Jesus's courage to do your will. Strengthen us through this meal to stand by him, to truly be the courageous body and blood of the faithful, and to accept risk and confrontation as elements of faithfulness. As this week passes, speak to us through its events, reminding us of your constant love, surprising grace, and caring power. Amen.

(Boronia Inclusive Church, Victoria, Australia)

ALL As we receive, let us call to mind those who, for reasons of Covid, or illness or church rules are not able to share bread and wine.

KS Let us greet each other with a sign of peace.

A vocation prayer for this week of Christian Unity:

Rhiannon

Jesus Christ, you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship and lead us to a life that is ever more complete.

Grant us the confidence to answer your call so that we may be transformed and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world. Amen

Final blessing *We hold out our hands to bless one another*

SW And the blessing of God be upon you

ALL *The blessing of the Giver of Life*

SW The blessing of God be upon you

ALL *The blessing of the Christ of Love*

SW The blessing of God be upon you

ALL *The blessing of the Spirit of peace*

KS

The blessing of the Trinity be upon you

Now and evermore

Amen

People are most welcome to stay and chat - reminder of Monday's ChatCafé

Same time, same link, tomorrow Monday 25th Jan

Our warmest thanks to Katharine and Sue for preparing and conducting our liturgy.