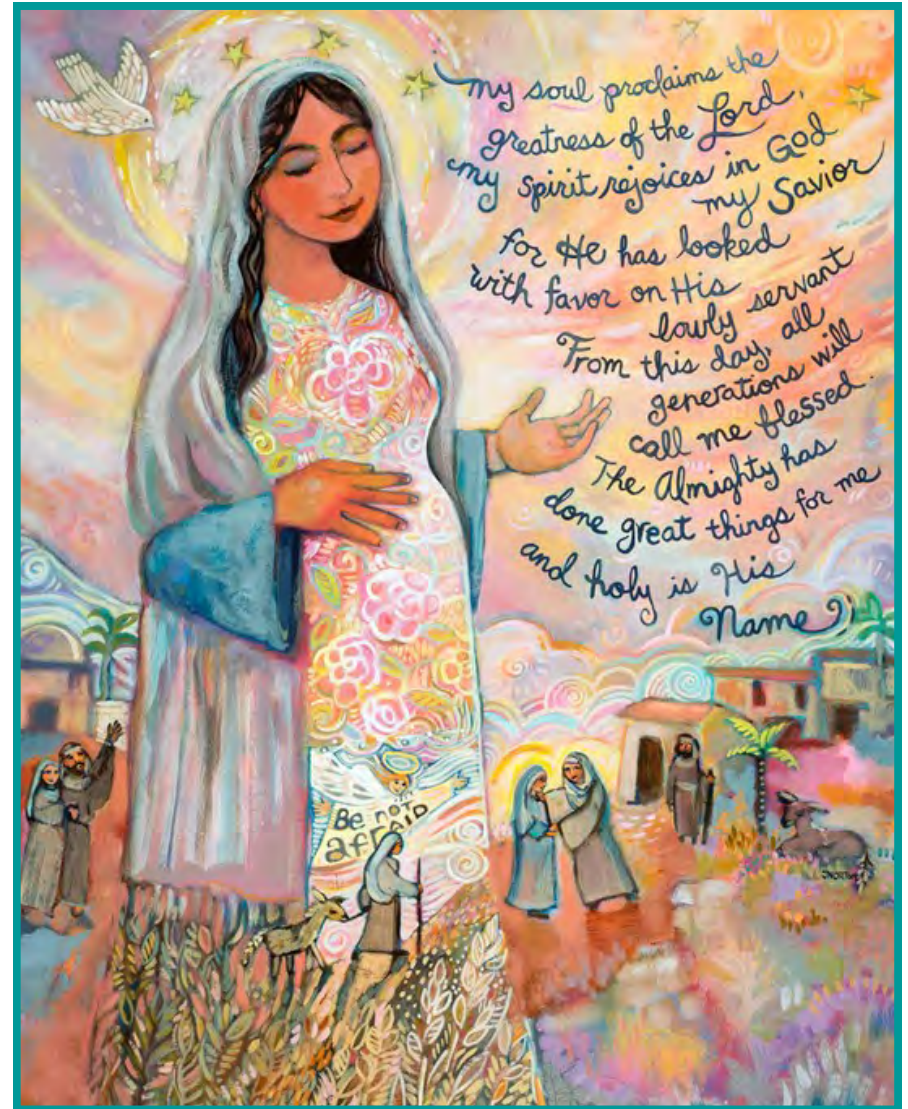


*My soul glorifies the Lord.  
Holy is God's name.*



## Acknowledgements

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Congregation of St. Joseph

Magnificats from "Miryam of Nazareth—Woman of Strength & Wisdom" by Ann Johnson

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*Presentation Day Novena—2017*

During this year's Presentation Day Novena, each of us, wherever we are, is invited to journey with Mary as we ponder some of the significant moments of her life.

We will reflect on the Magnificat. It is quite a subversive song that Luke placed on the lips of Mary as she encountered her cousin Elizabeth.

Susan Connelly rsj writes, "The Magnificat is a whole world-view. It is the perception of a person who is thoroughly steeped in God."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, notes, "This is not the gentle, tender, dreamy Mary whom we sometimes see in paintings; this is the passionate, surrendered, proud, enthusiastic Mary who speaks out.

Our novena will be a journey through Scripture on aspects of Mary's life. We will reflect on her life with Ann Johnson's development of the Magnificat in her book, *"Miryam of Nazareth, Woman of Strength and Wisdom"* we will see Mary as a woman of prayer, a woman of faith and a woman of confidence.

We are invited to:

- Call to mind Global Presentation People.
- Be still in the presence of God.
- Listen and ponder a short Scripture passage.
- Pray with a version of the Magnificat that reflects the Scripture.
- Spend time with Mary on her journey.
- Join together in prayer.

May we find in these reflections the fire that burned in Mary's heart and which ignited the flame of Nano's lantern that continues to shine in all corners of our globe where the Presentation Face of God is to be found.



## Presentation Day



### Pope Francis

Three words sum up Mary's attitude:

- Listening
- Decision
- Action

These are words that point out a way for us too as we face what the Lord asks of us in life.

Pope Francis: *A Church of Mercy* 2014

## Singer in my Soul

Singer in my soul!  
I long for your song  
In my empty heart.  
Is there a place  
Where you can hang  
Your notes?  
Enter into my day  
With the tender press  
Of your unfailing love.  
*Joyce Rupp*



Comforter of the afflicted—*Lead us to life*  
Cause of our joy—*Lead us to life*  
Sign of contradiction—*Lead us to life*  
Political refugee—*Lead us to life*  
Seeker of sanctuary—*Lead us to life*  
First disciple—*Lead us to life*  
Sharer in Christ's ministry—*Lead us to life*  
Seeker of God's will—*Lead us to life*  
Witness to the resurrection—*Lead us to life*

## Day 1: 12 November 2017

Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with  
Presentation People all over the world.

We remember Presentation People in  
Latin America and New Zealand.



## *Mary, loved by God.*



## *Be still and know that I am God*

Creator God,  
You are in the still place  
at the centre of my being.  
May I, like Mary, be open to your word.

## *Listen*

And having come in,  
the angel said to her,  
"Rejoice, highly favored one,  
the Lord is with you;  
blessed are you among women!"  
Luke 1:28

## *Ponder*

*How did Mary respond to such a greeting?  
Imagine that you hear this addressed to you.*



# Magnificat of Betrothal

*Rejoice so highly favoured, the Lord is with you. Lk 1:28*



Our souls are filled with wonder  
at the gift of your loving,  
and our spirits take on new meaning  
in the giving  
of love.

God of the Flowing Well,  
you have looked upon us with favour  
as we join our lives  
in response to you.

Yes, from this time on all people who look upon us  
will recognise us as being life companions  
and will call us blessed,  
for you, the One who dwells in human hearts,  
have done great things for us.

Holy is your name,  
and your confirming joy reaches from age to age  
to those who dare to journey  
on the unknown pathways of committed love.

You have shown us the life-changing power of our love  
in the eyes of those who know us and  
in the richness of our work.

There is nourishment in Jerusalem  
for those who hunger for peace and fairness.  
For those who take more than their part,  
from them shall all real food be hidden  
and they shall lie gasping in their worthless largess.

God will walk with each one of us who quietly reaches out,  
mindful of intimate devotion and courage  
... for there are whispered promises between us ...  
mindful of the intimate devotion and courage in  
knowing God  
we walk in caring with all people, all creation,  
and in this Truth  
Jerusalem will live forever.

## *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught your attention?*

*How can you make this prayer your own?*



# Magnificat of Prophecy

*Stay awake, praying at all times. Lk 21:31-38*

Jerusalem leaps with joy in the  
knowing of God  
and the core of the universe exults in the Creative One  
because this One has looked upon us with love.

Yes, from this day forward all people  
now and to come  
will be enriched by our choices  
for the Fertile Lover sows in each one of us  
a holy possibility.

Holy is the name of God,  
and embracing all time and space,  
this gentle One nurtures those who cherish life  
and hope with open hearts.  
Power resides in this One Alone,  
and in no other.

In places where pride and arrogance corrupt God's work,  
a praying people will seek wisdom  
and act with discernment  
destroying the illusion of might.

There is but one Law.  
All pretenders will be driven out  
that the way may be made clear  
for the feet of the simple ones.

You have humbled us by the intensity of our otherness.

The false pride that we treasured in our ability to stand alone  
has been cast aside  
and we understand ourselves and you more tenderly  
as we begin to experience the treasure  
of a lifetime of standing together.

We are no longer lonely;  
we touch with compassion those who come to us  
filled with needs.

You have opened the doors of eternity to us  
as we searched for you,  
mindful of your own longings for a people to love  
according to the dreams and murmurings you have shared  
with those you love since the beginning of time ...

Mindful of your own longings for a people to love,  
we recognise that the bondedness of human hearts and lives  
reflects one true reality of you, the Living God.

## *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught your attention?*

*How can you make this prayer your own?*



Painters always  
get it wrong, skewed,  
as though my life  
were wrapped in the silks,  
in temple smells.

Actually I had just  
come back from the well,  
pitcher in my hand.  
As I placed it on the table  
I spilled some on the floor.



Bending to wipe  
it up, there was a light,  
against the kitchen wall  
as though someone had opened  
the door to the sun.

Rag in hand,  
hair across my face,  
I turned to see  
who was coming in,  
unannounced, unasked.

All I saw  
was light, whiter  
than whitest white.  
I hear a voice  
I had never heard,  
  
walking toward me,  
saying I was chosen,  
The Favoured One.  
I pushed back my hair,  
stood baffled.

*Kilian McDonnell*  
*"In the Kitchen" (Adapted)*

Let us pray:

Mary, woman of truth—*Be our guide*

Mary, model of strength—*Be our guide*

Mary, model of risk—*Be our guide*

Day 9: 20 November, 2017



Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with  
Presentation People all over the world.

Today, we remember Today, we especially remember  
all the members of the Nagle-Rice Family.

*Mary, woman of prayer.*

*Be still and know that I am God*



Creator God,  
You are in the still place  
at the centre of my being.  
May I, like Mary, be open to your word.

*Listen*

*Stay awake, praying  
at all times.*

*Lk 21:31-38*

*Ponder*

*Reflect with Mary on her relationship with the Divine.*

*Bring your thoughts to prayer.*



## Openness

When I allow myself to be open,  
I see beauty everywhere,  
dancing like your divine spirit  
in the birthing of creation.  
I can view your surprises  
with clear eyes,  
uncluttered with expectations  
of how things ought to look

Beauty-Giver,  
in every piece of my life  
you wait to astonish me.  
You call to me,  
with the voice of urgency,  
“Be open to life, be open  
lest you miss the treasures  
awaiting you in the unexpected.”

*Joyce Rupp*



Woman of mercy—*Empower us*  
Woman of faith—*Empower us*  
Woman of contemplation—*Empower us*  
Woman of vision—*Empower us*  
Woman of wisdom and understanding—*Empower us*  
Woman of grace and truth—*Empower us*  
Woman, pregnant with hope—*Empower us*  
Woman centred in God—*Empower us*

Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with  
Presentation People all over the world.

Today, we remember Presentation People in Cambodia,  
Philippines, and Thailand.

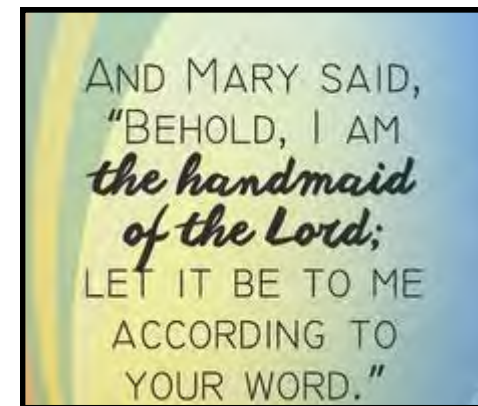
## *Mary, responding to God.*

### *Be still and know that I am God*

Creator God,  
You are in the still place  
at the centre of my being.  
May I, like Mary, be open to your word.



### *Listen*



### *Ponder*

*What quality of Mary is seen in this response?*

*Imagine yourself making this response.*

# Magnificat of Acceptance

*“I am the handmaid of the Lord,” said Mary,  
“let what you have said be done to me.” Lk 1:38*

My soul trembles in the presence of the loving Creator  
and my spirit prepares itself to walk hand in hand  
with the God who saves Israel  
because I have been accepted by God  
as a simple helpmate.

Yes forever in the life of humankind  
people will sing of this loving encounter;  
through remembering this moment, the faithful  
will know all things are possible in God.

Holy is the place within me where God lives.

God’s tender fingers reach out from age to age  
to touch the softened inner spaces of those  
who open their souls in hope.

I have experienced the creative power of God’s  
embracing arms  
and I know the cleansing fire of unconditional love.

You are my bread.

My hunger for life and loving is satisfied  
when I am in your presence  
and in the presence of those who know you.

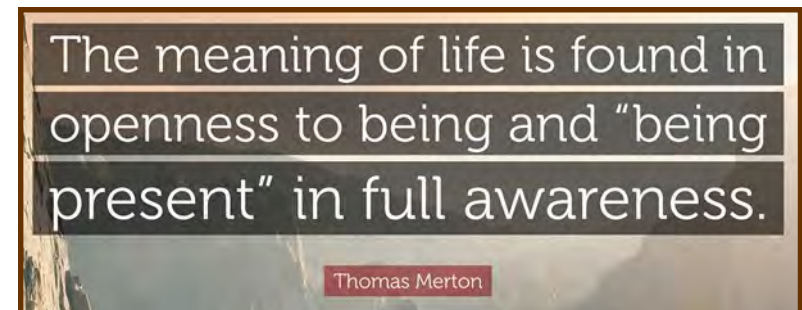
People who come to our gatherings  
not accepting your love for themselves  
look upon our fullness with puzzlement  
and leave shaking their heads.

You, most Gentle Counsellor ... Beloved Rabbi,  
come into the life of each person who invites you.  
You come with compassion  
... remembering the tears we have shed together ...  
You come with compassion  
as you have always come  
and as you will come in future days.

## *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught your attention?*

*How can you make this prayer your own?*





## Magnificat of the People Who Gather at the Temple

*“From early morning the people would gather round him in  
the Temple to listen to him.” Lk 21:38*

My soul opens before you, O God.

All that I am becomes acceptable in your saving love  
because you have asked me to look within myself  
with searching eyes.

Yes, from now on  
I know that I am truly blessed  
for you have helped me to do the difficult things.

Holy is your name.

Your mercy reaches into the hearts of all people  
who seek inner knowing.

You are the Empowering One.

In your presence I can face my own darkness.  
You have annihilated the fear that made of my spirit a fortress  
and have led me to my true self ... open and undefended  
I walk beside the living waters of my soul in peace.



I am freed from all earthly authority  
and know my bonding to the Author of all earthly things.

I am filled with the news of good things;  
my favour with God,  
faithful trust in the gentle shadow of the Most High,  
the mystery of my son, Jesus,  
the gift of companionship with my beloved kinswoman,  
Elizabeth, who believes as I believe.

The place in my heart that I had filled  
with thoughts of fear and inadequacy  
has been emptied and I am quiet within.

God comes to save Israel, our holy family,  
remembering that we are the ones who remember,  
... according to the kinship we have known ...  
remembering that we are the ones who remember  
and that where God and people trust each other  
there is home.

### *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught your attention?*

*How can you make this prayer your own?*



The first time Mary opens her mouth in the New Testament, it is to question God. "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" she asks, after the angel tells her that she will give birth (a reasonable enough question). Her response to something surprising in her life—and that's quite an understatement—is to question, to doubt?

*Here is one moment where her  
entirely human life intersects our own.*

Who hasn't wanted to ask in the face of a life-altering change, "How can this be?" Holy confusion is a natural part of the life of any believer—indeed, any person. When Mary airs her confusion, the angel politely furnishes her with an explanation—albeit a confusing one. *Joan Chittister*

*“And with that, the angel left her’. Lk 1:38*

Let us pray:



Mary, model of gentleness—*Be our guide*

Mary, model of trust—*Be our guide*

Mary, model of courage—*Be our guide*

Mary, model of patience—*Be our guide*

Mary, model of openness—*Be our guide*

Mary, model of perseverance—*Be our guide*

Day 8 : 19 November 2017



Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with  
Presentation People all over the world.

Today, we remember Presentation People in  
the United States of America.

*Mary, first disciple of Jesus.*

*Be still and know that I am God*



Creator God,  
You are in the still place  
at the centre of my being.  
May I, like Mary, be open to your word.

*Listen*

*Do whatever he tells you.*



*Ponder*

*In what ways does Mary's life reflect this?*

*How open am I to what God calls forth from me?*

Day 3 : 14 November 2017



*Let us pray:* A New Beginning

Faithful Guide,

You sit at the gate of my life, inviting me to enter eagerly  
the newness stretching before me.

As I attend to the old burdens  
that have weighed me down with worry,  
I look ahead with hopeful expectation  
to what my heart most needs.

I also recognise the absolute necessity  
of living in the present moment.

I choose to direct my daily attentiveness  
toward what will give my life greater balance.

I seek to let go of what keeps me unloving.

I long to contribute. To peace in this world.

*Joyce Rupp*



*Mary, we look to you.*

*Teach us how to live as*

*disciples of your Son.*

*Inspire us to act justly,*

*to love tenderly*

*and to walk humbly with God.*

Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with  
Presentation People all over the world.

Today, we remember Presentation People in  
Canada and the West Indies.

*Mary, gifted by God.*

*Be still and know that I am God*



Creator God,

You are in the still place

at the centre of my being.

May I, like Mary, be open to your word.

*Listen*

*Blessed* are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Luke 1:42

*Ponder*

**Judith's Blessing**

"Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God,  
above all women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God,  
The Creator of heaven and earth." *Judith 13:18*

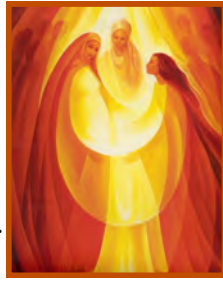
*Reflect*

How has God blessed women in your own story?

# Magnificat of Friendship

*Of all women you are the most blessed  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*

*Lk 1:39-56*



My soul flowers in the light of your love, my God,  
and my spirit sings Alleluia in the reality of your  
joyful presence,  
because you have chosen my kinswoman and me with  
the summons of your eyes.

Yes, we are known now and for all time. We are known as  
women blessed.

Holy is your name.

The tenderness of your hand rests on us as we journey in  
your way.

Your power in my life has led me into the embrace of  
loving arms.

You have exposed my lonely pride that I might turn my head  
to your nurturing breast.

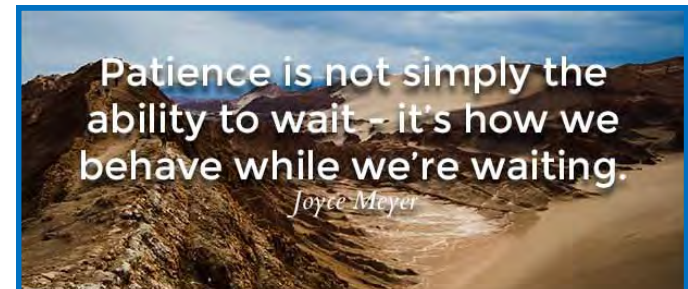
You have changed my life;  
I was so confident in my unknowing.  
You have deflected my fervent thrust toward iron-clad goals,  
and spread before me your vision of fragile simplicity.

My longing to be a healing and reconciling person  
to your people  
is affirmed within the daily comings and goings of my life;  
my illusions of my own wholeness are mercifully revealed.

You are here now in this seeming emptiness of waiting,  
remembering our intent,  
... according to the promise made in the beginning of time ...  
That your fullness may be known now, in our time.

## *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught your attention?  
How can you make this prayer your own?*





# The Magnificat of Waiting for the Fullness of Time



*Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months  
and then went back home. Lk 1:56*

My soul reflects quietly on your fullness,  
and my spirit grows stronger in the hope of your promise,  
God my redeemer, because you have filled me with the  
knowing that you are alive within me.

Yes, day by day through the course of time  
my awareness of the call to blessed fulfilment increases  
for you have done great things in me.

Holy is this time,  
and patience is your gift  
to all who nurture the seed of your love.

You have revealed the hollowness of achievements and have  
opened in my heart a space filled with simple,  
loving moments.

My hunger you have satisfied,  
my excess you have ignored.

You are my help as I remember your tender love for me,  
... for we have touched each other, you and I  
and we have made promises.

I remember your tenderness for all that you have begun in me  
and in those with whom I walk  
and I respond with all that I am becoming  
in this hour and in all times to come.

## *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught  
your attention?*

*How can you make this prayer  
your own?*



Day 7 : 18 November 2017



After the angel's visit (or encounter with God in a vision, or a dream, or however you understand it,) Mary rushes off to see Zechariah's wife, her cousin Elizabeth. Pious preachers paint this episode as Mary's



journeying to 'a Judean town in the hill country' to assist the elderly woman with her upcoming birth. But something else may be going on. The young, pregnant Mary probably needed the older woman's advice.

*Joan Chittister.*

*Like Mary whose heart was open and true,  
Filled with the grace to hope and believe.  
Alive to your Spirit, awake to your call  
Ready with courage to answer in joy.  
Alive to your love—James Maher msc*

Let us pray:

Mary, woman of truth—*Be our guide.*  
Mary, woman of strength—*Be our guide*  
Mary, woman of courage—*Be our guide*  
Mary, woman of risk—*Be our guide*  
Mary, woman of openness—*Be our guide*



Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with Presentation People all over the world.

Today, we remember Presentation People in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

## Mary, nurturing the seed of God's love.

*Be still and know that I am God*



Creator God,  
You are in the still place  
at the centre of my being.  
May I, like Mary, be open to your word.

*Listen*



*Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months  
and then went back home. Luke 1:56*

*Ponder*

*Consider Mary as she returned to her home town  
and awaited the birth of her baby?*

*Reflect*

*What does it mean to you that God is coming to birth in your life?*

"Let all the earth cry out to God with joy" (Ps 66:1)

This is not a superficial joy—it is aware of the struggle unto death yet hopeful that the great "nevertheless" of God leads to life. Mary magnifies God her Saviour, which in Elizabethan English means to celebrate the greatness, or sing and dance in praise of the goodness of someone wonderful. Hers are not the words of half-hearted appreciation. She feels herself lifted up into God's good and gracious will, and she breaks forth in praise and singing.

Mary's song is the prayer of a poor woman. She proclaims God's greatness because the Holy One, regarding her low estate, has done great things for her. *Elizabeth Johnston*



*Like Mary whose heart was open and true,  
Filled with the grace to hope and believe.  
Alive to your Spirit, awake to your call  
Ready with courage to answer in joy.  
Alive to your love—James Maher msc*

Openness:

*When I allow myself to be open,  
I see beauty everywhere,  
dancing like your divine spirit  
in the birthing of creation.  
I can view your surprises  
with clear eyes,  
uncluttered with expectations  
of how things ought to look.*

*Joyce Rupp*

Day 4 : 15 November 2017



Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with Presentation People all over the world.

Today, we remember Presentation People in Ireland, England and Slovakia.

*Mary, present.*



*Be still and know that I am God*

Creator God,  
You are in the still place  
at the centre of my being.  
May I, like Mary, be open to your word.

*Listen*

*The mother of Jesus was there. Jn 2:1*



*Ponder and Reflect*

*What is the relationship shown here between Mary and Jesus?*

*What is your relationship with Mary?*

# Magnificat of Now

*The mother of Jesus was there.*

*The mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."*

*Jesus: Why turn to me? My hour has not yet come."*

*His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."*

*Jn 2:1-6*

My spirit watches for the potent  
moment, Eternal One,  
and in the midst of  
this celebration  
you are a throbbing presence.  
All of us are here.  
All of us are ready.

Yes, in this time the nearness of your blessing is felt.  
"Wine they have not," I said to him.  
"What is this to me and thee," he said.  
"Not yet has come my hour."

Holy is this work now beginning.  
Blessed is the first step.  
Blessed are those who, prepared,  
have the courage to begin.  
Blessed are you, Almighty God, the enabler of deeds  
great and simple for these people today.

You have shown power over death.

You have humiliated those who believed  
they could destroy your living Word.

You have enfeebled those who would rule by their own might  
and empowered the simple people who trust in you,  
O God who creates and companions.

The anguished of heart are stilled,  
made whole again by this good news,  
and the arrogant are reduced to eternal confusion.

You have come to the help of Israel, your faithful one,  
Israel who remembers you are the God who saves  
... according to the history of our time with you ...  
Israel who remembers you are the God who saves us  
from bondage,  
from faithlessness,  
and from ultimate violence.  
You are the Forever Living One,  
the Shatterer of Death.

## *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught  
your attention?*

*How can you make this prayer  
your own?*

JOY  
is the  
echo  
of  
God's life  
in us.



## Magnificat of Resurrection

*In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you", and showed them his hands and his side.*

*The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord.  
Jn 20:19-21*

My soul sings and  
my spirit delights and rejoices,  
O Faithful God,  
because you have removed the stone which was  
rolled over our hearts and  
we are risen.

Yes, from this day forward all generations  
will call us blessed  
for the Almighty has called us forth from death  
and we have responded.

Holy is the name of God,  
and compassion reaches from age to age  
for those who walk hand in hand  
with the Everlasting One.



The fruit of this work offers nourishment to generation after generation for those who harvest it.

You show us the potency of people with a clear commitment;  
you scatter the energies of those who vacillate.  
You remove the moderators and the intercessors;  
you speak directly to those who speak to you.  
You provide answers for those who question;  
to those who know the answers, you are silent.

You are here now, the Available One,  
for the work of these times,  
mindful of your continuing newness  
... according to the traditions of all searching people ...  
Mindful of the continuing newness of each one of us,  
we come with open minds  
to accomplish the work of this day.

### *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught your attention?*

*How can you make this prayer your own?*



Mary's final words in the New Testament come at the Wedding Feast of Cana, as recounted in the Gospel of John. When she suggests that Jesus help the host who has run out of wine, Jesus turns to her and says, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?" His mother simply turns to the host and says, "Do whatever he tells you." Perhaps she understood Jesus' ultimate ministry better than even he did at that moment.

That wouldn't be surprising. After all, Mary had more time to think about her son's destiny. Moreover, she had the benefit of years of hard-earned wisdom gained from living a fully human life.

*Joan Chittister*

*Like Mary, whose life was one with the poor,  
Who hungered for justice and peace in her time,  
May we live with compassion  
Bringing hope to our world  
Ready with courage to reach out in joy.  
Alive to your Love—James Maher msc*

*Let us pray:*

Mary, mother of Christ....  
Pray with us.

Mother of the homeless....  
Pray with us.



**Day 6 : 17 November 2017**



Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with Presentation People all over the world.

Today, we remember Presentation People in Palestine and in the Africa Unit: Zambia and Zimbabwe.

***Mary, disciple filled with joy.***

*Be still and know that I am God*



Creator God,  
You are in the still place  
at the centre of my being.  
May I, like Mary, be open to your word.

**THE LORD  
HAS DONE  
GREAT THINGS  
FOR US AND  
WE ARE FILLED  
WITH JOY**  
{ psalm 126:3 }

***Listen***

*The disciples were filled with joy  
when they saw the Lord.*

***Ponder***

*From where did Mary get her source of Joy?*

***Reflect***

*What is the source of your joy?*

Mary evidently faced confusion about the way her son had turned out—a not uncommon event for parents today. When word spreads about Jesus' preaching, the Gospel of Mark tells us, "his family went to restrain him." And of course, Mary suffers through Jesus' crucifixion, at which point Meier estimates her to be roughly 48 to 50 years old. Hers was a human life filled with human struggle and, clearly, human emotion.



*Make us alive to your love within  
May we grow stronger in faith,  
God, help us to listen, to learn and to care,  
May our hearts like Mary's be true,  
Showing your heart in all we do.  
Alive to your Love—James Maher*



Let us pray:

Mother of the dying—*Be with us*

Mother of a political prisoner—*Be with us*

Mother of the condemned—*Be with us*

Mother of an executed prisoner —*Be with us*

Day 5 : 16 November 2017



Be conscious that we are connected in this prayer with Presentation People all over the world.

Today, we remember Presentation People in India and Pakistan

*Mary, faithful in time of trial.*

*Be still and know that I am God*



Creator God,

You are in the still place  
at the centre of my being.

May I, like Mary, be open to your word.

*Listen*

*And a sword will pierce your own soul too.*

*Luke 2:35b*

*Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother.*

*John 19:25*

*Ponder*

*What sustained Mary in her sorrow?*

*Reflect*

*When do you stand faithfully in the face of sorrow?*

# Magnificat of Desolation

*Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother. Jn19:25*

My soul seeks the Holy Helper in the secret places of  
my heart,  
my spirit roams the empty spaces of my prayer, sighing,  
“my Saviour...my Saviour.  
I am forsaken and cast down.  
Will there be a tomorrow?  
Will there be generations to come who call the name  
of God?

What does it mean to be called blessed?

Why does the Almighty stand aside now in these  
hard times?

Hidden is the face of God.  
Concealed the mercy which has flowed  
from age to age.

I am afraid.

The strong ones of the Almighty are routed and scattered,  
the arms of the proud have struck with power.

The prince of the Almighty's promise  
is pulled down beneath his crushing burden;  
he is pressed onto the tree  
and lifted up beyond our comforting,  
and the oppressors walk with a light step,  
jesting among themselves, mindless of our pain.

The hungry are without desire,  
and they regret having eaten at your table;  
the rich consume the food of God's people.

Where are you who never desert those who seek you?  
Remembering you are our stronghold  
... according to the promise you have made to me,  
your helpmate and to your faithful ones ...

## *Reflect and Share*

*What words or phrases caught  
your attention?*

*How can you make this prayer  
your own?*

