

The Gathering of a People of God

National Avenue is a brave place for all people. We celebrate our diversity of race, creed, religion, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions. We extend a warm welcome to all this morning, especially those who are worshipping at National Avenue for the first time. Your presence enriches us in this time of celebration together~

Welcome to worship

Prelude

Words of Gathering Dr. Deborah Cox & Rev. Jenn Simmons

My heart knows the way.

It told me so long ago.

Even though I kept trying to listen,

structures, systems, and religion so often got in the way.

Mary, she reminds us, listen to your heart.

In her time with Jesus,

she experienced something so powerful,

divinity, humanity, wisdom,

within her being.

She learned to listen.

She learned to trust.

She let love guide the way.

May we follow in Mary's way.

As we gather to learn, remember,

to seek the ways of Jesus,

the way of love,

may we be open-hearted, open-minded,

and tender with one another.

[jsimmons]

***Gathering Hymn**

What Is This Place

289

***Lighting the Community Candle**

The Gospel of Mary is ultimately about our relationship to being in a body.

The limits and the possibilities.

And if we're willing to stay still for long enough,

face-to-face with the emptiness,

we can learn to perceive what Christ refers to as the "treasure,"

or the "eye of the heart."

This is why Mary at the beginning of her gospel says,

"I will teach you about what is hidden from you" (6:3).

This vision, this power to know who we are,

to see what's true for us in our lives,

to live from a power love provides,

is what has been hidden from us,

and it's what we play hide-and-peek from.

It's what we spend considerable amounts of energy trying not to find.

Because once we know who we are,

we're responsible then for living true to it.

[megganwatterson]

The Christ Candle is lit.

May this light center us and remind us

We are light.

We are meant to shine.

***Passing of the Peace**

It is not just the interior of these walls,

it is our own inner beings you have renewed.

We are your temple not made with hands.

We are your body.

If every wall should crumble,

and every church decay,

we are your habitation.

Nearer are you than breathing,

closer than hands and feet.

Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,

look out in compassion on the world.

So we bless you for this place,

for your directing of us,

your redeeming of us, and your indwelling. [georgemacdonald]

As we seek peace,

the gritty, resilient, enduring, peace of deep, deep, love,

may we savor the glimpses we experience here in this place.

May the heart of peace be with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to share this ancient greeting with those seated near you. We are mindful each of us are at different levels of comfort, please honor those around you as you share peace. You are invited to turn to the camera and say hello to all worshipping with us online!

Welcome to NACC

You are invited to sign in via check-in. The QR code/link is in the pews. If you would like to receive our weekly update by email or would like to schedule a time for coffee with our pastor, please provide that information on the form.

Reflecting on the Sacred Story

from the Gospel according to Mary Magdalene

We tell stories to learn, to grow, to spark more questions.

Today we offer the longings of our heart.

We join with the voices rising, from the past and from today.

We join the story.

Prayers of the Community

For when life is too many things.

Awful. Lovely. Full.

Shockingly incomplete.

May you live with its absurdity,

a life that's working out just fine,

AND gone to hell in every hand basket.

Let today be an exercise of yes...and.

Yes, you have so much to be thankful for,

and this is not what you imagined.

Yes, there are moments of joy, and,

you've lost more than you thought possible.

Yes, you want to make the most of today,

and your body keeps breaking.

Yes, you are hopeful, and this is daunting.

Yes, you are trying to be brave,

and you are also quietly terrified.

So, blessed are you, living awkwardly between yes...and.

May you see this as life's work.

Where it takes courage to live,

where grief strips you to the studs

and love can remake you again.

Where your heart can be shattered and still beating.

Never sorry to break at all. Yes...and.

May you be capable of absurd joy,

ridiculous love, audacious risk, and

even fear, as your heart stretches to hold

this gloriously messy yes...and today." [katebowler]

Silence

We join our voices together as we continue to pray...

Good caring presence within us, around us, and above us;

Hold us in a sense of mystery and wonder.

Let the fullness of your goodness be within us and around us;

Let all the world know your ways of caring and generosity.

May we find we have all we need

to meet each day without undue anxiety.

Overlook our many stupidities, and help us

to release everyone from their stupidities.

May we all know that we are accepted.

Strengthen us that we will reach out

to the best, always with the faith

to rise above the ugly realities of our existence.

And we celebrate the gifts you have given us –

the rich kingdom of life's possibilities

the power to do good and the triumphs of good

and the moments when we have seen

the glory and wonder of everything.

You are life's richness.

You are life's power.

You are life's ultimate meaning

Amen.

[Francis Macnab]

Reflecting in Song

You Cannot Lose My Love

LABARR

CHANCEL CHOIR

Reflection

Resurrecting The Gospel: Mary Magdalene

Dr. Leslie Baynes

Music to Reflect

Fantasia On Forest Green

LARSON

CHANCEL BELL CHOIR

Offering of Ourselves

We invite you to share your offerings of time, passion, energy, and resources. Thank you for investing in Spirituality, Justice, and Community as it comes to life at NACC.

Musical Gift *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* **MOKLEBUST**
CHANCEL BELL CHOIR W/PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Prayer of Gratitude

Dr. Etta Madden

Invitation to the Table & Sharing the Lord's Supper
with Rev. Jenn Simmons, Ashley Quinn, Elders & Deacons

Cynthia Bourgeault explains,

“Apostleship does not lie in having been near Jesus,
taught or studied with him,
or attended the Last Supper.

It lies in the inner integration (singleness) which allows that person to
live in continuous communion with the Master in the imaginal meeting
ground through the power of a pure heart,
so that ‘Thy Kingdom come’ is in fact a living reality.”

This, to me, is the perfect human,

the anthropos that Christ in Mary's gospel calls us all to be.

We are to clothe ourselves with this holy mix of being an ego,

a self that struggles every single day to cope,

and also equally,

a soul that is eternal and knows it,

a soul that is love and never needs to prove it.

And this is the state I can keep choosing to be in,

that I can practice returning to faster.

[watterson,meggan]

This table is an invitation.

An opportunity to slow down.

To look with the eyes of our hearts.

May we be filled with love as we gather here.

Jesus shared a meal with his companions, his community, his chosen
family, before he would be arrested.

Filled with love for them, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to
his disciples and said:

“This is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it, saying:

“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

In remembrance of Jesus,

executed by the state,

faithful to the end.

May this bread and this cup be for us a revival of hope

and a renewal of courage as we encounter

your presence among the ordinary gifts of life.

On this day as we bear witness to love in our midst,

we gather to participate in this meal

and bring it to life.

[adapt/enfleshedliturgy]

Prayer at the Table

Dr. Robyn Hagerman

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*This morning we will receive communion by intinction. You are invited to
come forward and to take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat, and
leave your toothpick in the bowl. The bread is gluten, nut, and dairy free*

*so all may share at the table. If you would prefer a pre-packaged
communion, remain seated and we will bring one to you. All are
welcome to share at the table set by Jesus.*

A Call to Faithful Action

Sending Song

Holy Wisdom

258

Words for the Journey

I think this is what was hidden that Mary revealed:

that love is within us.

We are love,

and we don't have to earn or prove or deserve this fact.

And if we can recognize that we've never been separate from it,

and bring it forth outside of us,

this is what saves us.

[watterson,meggan]

This way goes with us always.

May it be so.

National Avenue Christian Church

417.869.9176 communications@nationalavenuecc.com

www.nationalavenuecc.com

Rev. Jenn Simmons, Lead Pastor |

Ashley Quinn, Pastor for Public Theology & Justice

Rev. Dr. John White, Theologian in Residence | **Jonathan Raney**, Music Director

Alex Bates, Sound Technician | **Sarah Cybulski**, Finance Coordinator

Hayley Norton, Communication Coordinator | **Nicholas & Olivia Villaroel**, Sextons

Greta Allen, Donna Kearney, Ela Stark, Nursery Caregivers

Kylie Robertson & Claudia Brown-Jackson, UNO & Storykeepers Team

John Scroggins, Board Moderator

Dr. Etta Madden, Dr. Robyn Hagerman Elders

Jimmy Brooks, Justin & Ashley Fleming, Jill Wait, Kathy Pittman, Deacons

National Avenue Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



Eastertide:
Resurrecting the Gospel:
Mary Magdalene
26 April 2026

Trading Treasure: Yard Sale?

June 25, 26, 27

Help us keep our community hub thriving!

Planning Team:

(weekly meetings in mid-may-June)

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Donation Coordinator
- Promotion Coordinator
- Other _____

Items for sale:

***(Bring to church June 21st,
w/other options beginning in June)***

- I have things I want to donate.
- I will ask others for donations.

I will give my time!

- I will work set-up shifts.
- I will work during the sale.
- I have a pick-up truck or want to help move things!
- I will help in other ways: _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Based on our replies, we will decide if we have the capacity for this event. Be watching the Ave-News on May 1 for an announcement!

Trading Treasure: Yard Sale?

June 25, 26, 27

Help us keep our community hub thriving!

Planning Team:

(weekly meetings in mid-may-June)

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Donation Coordinator
- Promotion Coordinator
- Other _____

Items for sale:

***(Bring to church June 21st,
w/other options beginning in June)***

- I have things I want to donate.
- I will ask others for donations.

I will give my time!

- I will work set-up shifts.
- I will work during the sale.
- I have a pick-up truck or want to help move things!
- I will help in other ways: _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Based on our replies, we will decide if we have the capacity for this event. Be watching the Ave-News on May 1 for an announcement!

Trading Treasure: Yard Sale?

June 25, 26, 27

Help us keep our community hub thriving!

Planning Team:

(weekly meetings in mid-may-June)

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Donation Coordinator
- Promotion Coordinator
- Other _____

Items for sale:

***(Bring to church June 21st,
w/other options beginning in June)***

- I have things I want to donate.
- I will ask others for donations.

I will give my time!

- I will work set-up shifts.
- I will work during the sale.
- I have a pick-up truck or want to help move things!
- I will help in other ways: _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Based on our replies, we will decide if we have the capacity for this event. Be watching the Ave-News on May 1 for an announcement!