

Easter tide 2018

“Friends of Christ”

Early last fall, we entered a season of intentional review and renovation of both our building, and also of our less tangible structures of leadership and congregational life. In corporate worship, we focused on “Jesus as our companion.” We heard stories of Jesus and stories Jesus told, noting how he defined and embodied companionship, and asked that Jesus “share bread” with us throughout the work and changes of this year.



During Eastertide, as we come into a new phase of changes, we return to the theme of companionship, this time to learn from some of Jesus’ closest companions. In one of the lectionary texts, which will guide our worship this season, Jesus tells his disciples, **“I don’t call you servants any longer...instead I call you friends” (John 15:15 CEB)**. Whom did Jesus choose as friends? What did it mean to be a friend of the human One? How did his friends understand and relate to Christ, the post-resurrection Jesus? What might it look like today to be friends of Christ, the Wisdom and Word of God?

One of the gifts of the season will be two Sundays focused on Jesus’ close friend and disciple, Mary Magdalene. On April 22 and 29, we will be led by a worship and study group convened, with the blessing of the AMC Leadership Group, by Kristy Shellenberger Yordy. The group offers this invitation:

“This past year, a small group of folks from Assembly and beyond has met twice a month to study the character of Mary Magdalene as she is depicted in the canonical gospels (Matt, Mark, Luke, John) and in the extracanonical Gospel of Mary Magdalene, written in the early second century C.E. We are eager to share our learning and work with you.

At the request of Worship Commission, we have prepared two weeks of sharing about our experience. We ourselves have a continuum of beliefs and understandings. Our Wisdom Circle enfolds and accepts each where we are. To Assembly we vulnerably bare our souls, sharing what we have found meaningful, what has given us joy, and what has led us to grow in our relationship to the Divine One.”

Date	Scripture	Preacher
April 8	Acts 4:32-35; Ps. 133; 1 JN 1:1-2:2; JN 20:19-31	Tom Kauffman
April 15	Acts 3: 12-19; Psalm 4; I John 3: 1-7; Luke 24: 36b-48	Doug Hostetter (MCC UN)
April 22	Mary Magdalene in the Gospels	Kristy SY and MM group
April 29	Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of Mary Magdalene	Kristy SY and MM group
May 6	Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98; I John 5: 1-6; John 15: 9-17	TBD
May 13	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1; I John 5: 9-13; John 17:6-19	TBD
May 20 Pentecost	Acts 2: 1-21; Ps. 104: 24-34; Rom. 8: 22-27; John 15: 26-27	Karl Shelly
May 27	Is. 6: 1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8: 12-17; John 3: 1-17	TBD
June 3	I Sam. 3:1-10; Deut. 5:12-15; II Corint. 4:5-12; Mk 2:23-3:6	Willi Hugo (SEMILLA)