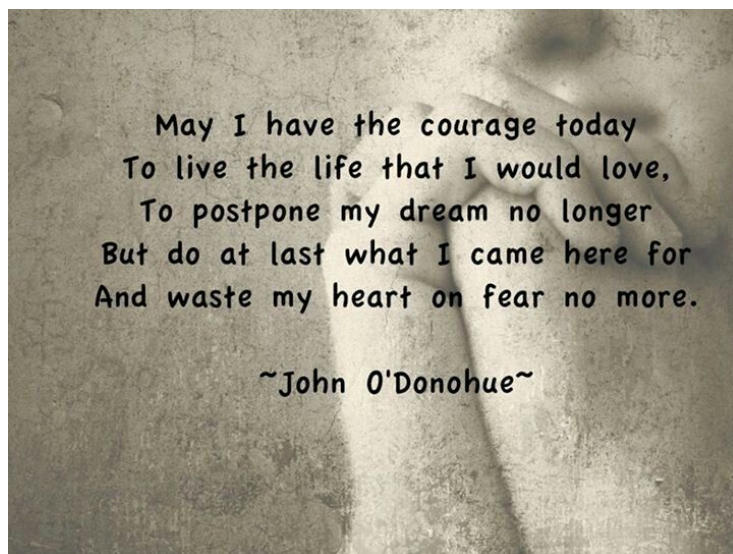


Renewal of Baptism Vows & celebration of new creation



*on the Feast of Mary of Magdala
'first witness of the resurrection' - 'apostle to the apostles'*



Acknowledgement of Country

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

**Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**



(John Bell and Graham Maule, Wild Goose Music, Iona Community)

Introduction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

We have come together in the presence of God
to give thanks for Jo, for her faith in Christ,
and to support her in her journey of becoming.
When Jo was an infant, their parents brought them to the font for baptism.
They named their child by other names.
They did this with integrity.
Let us now pray for them, and all who have walked with Jo in years past,
giving thanks for their love and nurture.

Loving and merciful God,
we thank you for Jo, for her life and faith.
We thank you for her parents and godparents,
for their love and nurture,
and for their desire that Jo be brought up in the Christian faith.
We ask you to be with them, and all who have loved Jo,
to strengthen them in their faith and love,
and to encourage them as they seek to understand and support Jo
as a transgender person.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who loved and accepted all who came to him. **Amen.**

Reading - from Isaiah 56.3-8

Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people"; and do not let the eunuch say, "I am just a dry tree." For thus says the LORD: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Reading - Josephine (by J Mase II)

(https://www.huffingtonpost.com/j-mase-iii/josephine-reconciling-my-queer-faith_b_4014580.html)

Affirmation of God's Calling

Dear friends, as people of faith,
we know that God continues to shape and mold us in our growth,
inviting us to claim for ourselves the people whom God created us to be.
Each new day is an opportunity to live more fully the promise of who we
are. Throughout history, individuals, as they have claimed their unique
personhood more fully, have been given new names, a testimony of their
faithfulness.

All: Abram was renamed Abraham

Sarai was renamed Sarah. **All: Jacob was renamed Israel**

Simon was renamed Peter. **All: Saul was renamed Paul.**

For we know that renaming can reflect our new nature found in Christ.

Today a child of God comes forward in an important renaming. It has not
been an easy journey, yet we know the road of faith is not a smooth one.
We are asked to witness this renaming and be companions on the journey.

Jo, through most of your life you have been known by another name.
Today you stand before us, your life a testimony to the God who welcomes
us as their children and makes all things new.
What name do you choose for yourself?
Person being renamed: I am Josephine McDonnell
Josephine McDonnell you are God's beloved child.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Jo, when you were a child, your parents and godparents brought you for
baptism and named you before God and the Church.
As you transition and take a new name,
I ask you to renew the baptism vows made then on your behalf.
Do you turn to Christ? *I turn to Christ.*
Do you repent of your sins? *I repent of my sins.*
Do you reject selfish living and all that is false and unjust?
 I reject them all.
Will you, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ,
loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself,
until your life's end? *I will, with God's help.*

Recommissioning

(The minister anoints Jo's forehead with oil, making the sign of the cross)

Through this holy anointing may God in their love and mercy renew you
by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

God of mercy and love,
new birth by water and the Spirit is your gift,
a gift none can take away;
grant that your servants may grow
into the fullness of the stature of Christ.
Fill them with the joy of your presence.
Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of love, patience and gentleness,
the spirit of wonder and true holiness. **Amen.**

(hands are laid on the candidate in silence)

Come, Creator Spirit, rekindle in Jo your gifts of grace,
to love and serve as a disciple of Christ. **Amen.**
Renew her life in Christ
and bring to completion all that your calling has begun. **Amen.**
Empower your disciple Jo to bring life to the world. **Amen.**

Living God, sustain all your people
to be hope and strength to the world;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

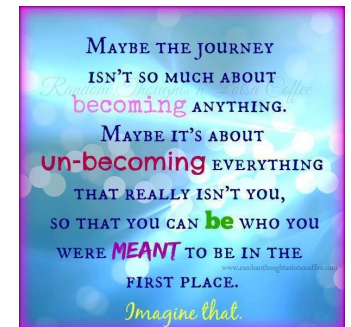
My friends, I present to you Josephine McDonnell

**All: Josephine McDonnell, we rejoice with you for all that God has
done for you, and for all that has yet to be revealed. We will walk with
you, as you walk with us. May the life and ministry we share always
reflect the love of God, who calls us all to wholeness. Amen.**

Poem - Cross-border peace talks (by Kathy Galloway)
(<http://www.blessedimp.org/blog/being-a-border-crosser>)

Prayer of St Brendan the Navigator

*Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.
Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
to be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for You.
Amen.*



We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.

June Boyce-Tillman. Tune: Londonderry Air

Acknowledgments: with thanks to the Holy Spirit in the worldwide communion, this liturgy was composed with adapted materials from the *A Prayer Book for Australia* (Anglican Church of Australia); Cathy Laufer's *A Liturgy for taking a New Name*, A (Canadian) *Liturgy of Re-Naming for Transgender Persons* (St Brigid's Community, Vancouver Cathedral & Karen Oliveto's *Shaping God's Sanctuary: Proclaiming God's Grace in an Inclusive Church*); and *Affirmation of Holy Baptism: for Confirmation and Renewal* (The Scottish Episcopal Church)

**THANKYOU AND RICH BLESSINGS
TO EVERYONE HERE TODAY!**

What's in a Name? - Josephine McDonnell Inkpin



Josephine

- **after Josephine Butler** (fellow child of the north east of England, daughter of a great political reforming family, champion of sex workers and women, 'mother of Christian feminism', proto-liberation theologian, Anglican saint)
- **after Josephine Baker** (child of African & Native American slaves, dancer, Folies Bergeres headline entertainer, 'the most sensational woman anyone ever saw' (Ernest Hemingway), French Resistance agent, leading US Civil Rights activist, bisexual, mother of a 'Rainbow Tribe' of adopted children- 'proving that different ethnicities and religions could still be siblings')

McDonnell

- **after Celtic forebears** (especially reclaiming a name changed to MacDonald on emigration to England, after employment was found so hard to find for those with Irish names, & in memory of Ruby, beloved maternal grandmother)
- **remembering all who have lost their true names, place or story**

Inkpin

- **paternal family name**
- **variant of Inkpen**
(from Old English 'inga' - people and "pen" - hill: 'people of the hill' & the villages of Inkpen in Berkshire, England)

If Harry Potter
taught us anything



It's that no one
should live in a closet

