



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

May 10, 2015 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The grave is empty; He has conquered death!
Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

O sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things,
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

The LORD has made known His salvation;

He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness
to the house of Israel;

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;

Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises
before the LORD, the King.

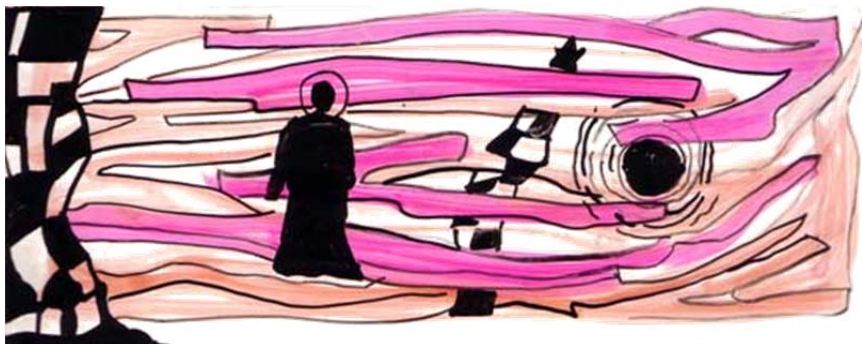
**Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell
in it; let the rivers clap their hands and the mountains sing
together before the LORD!**

For He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with
righteousness and the peoples with equity.

I will sing to the LORD, for He has done excellent things;

His lovingkindness and His faithfulness are everlasting.

– Psalm 98



This is My Commandment. That You Love One Another As I Have Loved You.
Eugen J. Pentiuc, Contemporary



Holy

I will lift my voice, and I will sing,
I will sing holy, holy.
To my Lord and Savior, my God and King:
I will sing holy, holy

Chorus:

I will praise the Lamb of God
Who sits upon the throne.
I will worship Him,
And give the praise to Him alone.
He who was and is and is to come:
I will sing before His throne forever, forever.

All the angels sing, and they bow down,
And they sing holy, holy.
We, Your sons and daughters, we praise You now:
And we cry holy, holy.

Chorus

Holy, holy
Holy, holy . . .

Donnie McClurkin. ©2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Sung:

I will praise the Lamb of God who sits upon the throne.
I will worship Him, and give the praise to Him alone.
He who was and is and is to come: I will sing before the throne
Forever, forever Amen.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God;

And everyone who loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

By this we know that we love the children of God;

When we love God and obey His commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

**And His commandments are not burdensome,
for whatever is born of God overcomes the world.**

And this is the victory that overcomes the world:

Our faith.

Who are they who overcome the world,

but those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

**This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ;
not with water only, but with the water and the blood.**

It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is truth.

– 1 John 5:1-6

Our Great Savior

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus, Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me;
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a Strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing;
He, my Strength, my vict'ry wins.

Text: J. Wilbur Chapman; Music: Rowland H. Prichard; Tune: HYFRYDOL



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Jesus said to His disciples:

As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; abide in My love.

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in His love.

I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

This is My commandment, that you love one another
as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this,
than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

– John 15:12-13

[Silence]

Most holy and loving God,

**We confess to You and to one another, that we have sinned by our
own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and
by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and
strength. We have not loved others as You have loved us.**

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

**Accept our repentance, and accomplish in us the work of Your
salvation, that we may show forth Your glory in the world;
through Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The words of Jesus, great blessings of pardon:

You are My friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in My name.

I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

– John 15:14-16

Our Great Savior

Jesus! I do now adore Him,
More than all in Him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

TIME OF OFFERING

Gracious God, we are amazed that You think of us,
and shower us with Your love.

You have shown Your love this week

Even more amazing, You call us Your friends.

We bow down in worship, thanksgiving, and surrender.



Friend of God

Who am I that You are mindful of me,
That You hear me when I call?
Is it true that You are thinking of me?
How You love me – it's amazing!

Chorus 1

I am a friend of God (3x); He calls me friend.

Chorus 2

I am a friend of God (3x); You call me friend.

Bridge

God Almighty, Lord of glory, You have called me friend.

CCLI Song #3991651 ©2003 Integrity's Praise! Music. Israel Houghton, Michael Gungor

THE WORD

John 15:9-17
1 John 5:1-6

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**



O Church Arise

O church arise and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is Love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure;
And Christ will have the prize for which He died:
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit come, put strength in every stride;
Give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Friend of God (reprise)

I am a friend of God (3x); He calls me friend.

CCLI Song #3991651 ©2003 Integrity's Praise! Music. Israel Houghton, Michael Gungor

Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, let us remember with thankful hearts that He has called us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His will. He has called us His friends, and has given us the privilege and charge to love and serve others as He has loved us.

As we walk out our baptisms in the world, may He guide us closer to Him and to one another, in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace, confirming us in His ways, for His glory alone, forever.

Amen. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“When the martyrs obeyed the great commandments, they acted by a great will—that is, with great love. The Lord speaks of this great love: ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.’ . . . The Apostle Peter didn’t possess this love when he fearfully denied the Lord three times. ‘There is no fear in love,’ says John the Evangelist in his first epistle, ‘but perfect love casteth out fear.’ Even though Peter’s love was small and imperfect, it was still present when he said to the Lord, ‘I will lay down my life for Thy sake.’ Peter believed he could carry out what he felt he was willing to do by himself. . . . However, God works in us so that we can have the will to obey. Once we have this will, God works with us to perfect us. The apostle Paul says, ‘I am confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.’”

– Origen

Lectionary for next week: Acts 1:1-11; Psalms 47 and 93; Ephesians 1:15-23;
Luke 24:44-53

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113

Sunday mornings at The Carmichael Chapel, 4600 Winding Way
(Corner of Winding Way and Pasadena), Sacramento, CA 95841.

Informal gathering: 10:00 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM.

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