



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

August 16, 2015 (Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

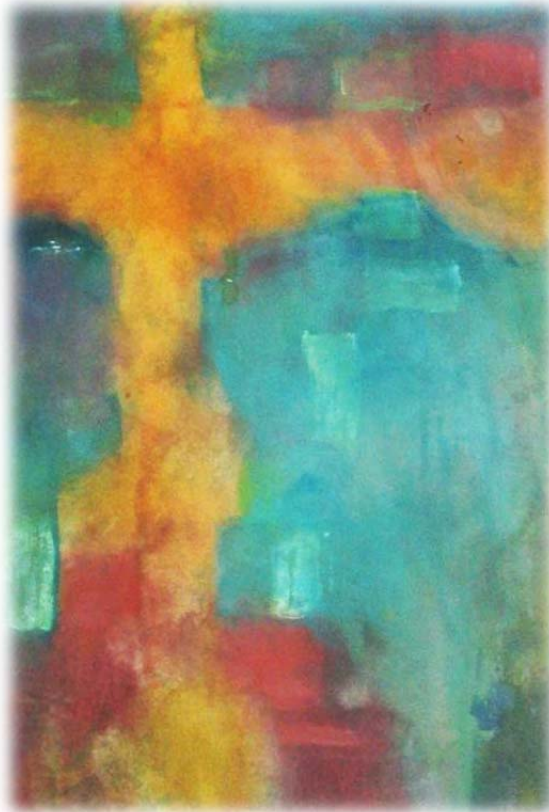
We are gathered to praise and worship the eternal God,
Almighty, the source of all life and blessing.

**There is none like You, O LORD,
Holy and awesome; righteous and just;
nor are there any works like Yours.**

For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God!

**We will give thanks to the LORD with our whole hearts,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
Praise the LORD!**

— from Psalms 86 and 111



Cruciform Painting, Elise Ritter, Contemp.



Let the Peoples Praise

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
You will reign on Mount Zion forevermore.
Shine the light of Your face all over us – King of kings.

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
Fling wide all of the gates, open all of the doors;
Out of Zion You reign, Your glory shines forth – Emmanuel.
There is

Only One, only One worthy (3x)
Worthy is the Lamb.
(Repeat)

Glory to the Righteous One (3x)
From the ends of the earth we hear songs.
There is

Only One, only One worthy (3x)
Worthy is the Lamb.
(Repeat)

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb;
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

Glory to the Righteous One (3x)
Hallelujah! The Lamb has won.
Hallelujah! The Lamb has won.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Psalm 111

Refrain (sung):

Praise the Lord! I will thank Him with my whole heart.

Bless His Name! I will delight in His great works.

Honor and majesty, righteous forever;

Holy and awesome is He!

**Great are the works of the LORD;
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of honor and majesty is His work,
and His righteousness endures forever.

*He has gained renown by His wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.*

He provides food for those who fear Him;
He is ever mindful of His covenant.

*He has shown His people the power of His works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.*

Refrain

The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy.

*They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.*

He sent redemption to His people.

He has commanded His covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is His name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

All those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

Refrain

Setting: Ellen Koehler; ©2009 Ellen Koehler.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in the words of the Apostle Paul:

Our faith rests not on human wisdom,
but on the power of God

This is the power of God:

Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

**We declare the wisdom of God,
a mystery that was hidden and that God ordained
for our glory from before time began.**

None of the rulers of this age understood it,
for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written:

**“No eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love Him.”**

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

**For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things;
To Him be glory forever.**

– from 1 Corinthians 2:1-10 and Romans 11:33, 36

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Come, children, and listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

*Who among you desires life and loves many days,
that you may see good?*

Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit;
turn away from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

– Psalm 34:11-14

[Silence]



O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

— from the Covenant Renewal service of John Wesley

Purify My Heart

Purify my heart,
Touch me with Your cleansing fire;
Take me to the cross,
Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe Your life in me,
Kindle a love
That flows from Your throne.
Oh, purify my heart,
Purify my heart.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and deliverance:

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. He is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who have a contrite spirit.

The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name.

— from Psalms 34:15, 18, 22; 111:9



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise
Answering the call to holiness

You Are Beautiful

Source of life to wood and stream,
Sovereign Lord and gentle King,
More than we could ever dream: You are beautiful.
Father to the fatherless, Healer of our brokenness,
How You fill our emptiness: You are beautiful.

Chorus

Jesus, You are beautiful;
There is none to compare with You.
Jesus, You are beautiful;
And you show Your love to me,
And it gives me grace to see:
You are everything my heart desires. You are beautiful.

Son of God upon a cross, tasting death for all of us,
Reaching out when we were lost: You are beautiful.
Risen Lamb upon the throne, Roaring Lion coming soon,
Every eye will see it's true: You are beautiful.

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THE WORD

Ephesians 5:15-20

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.





Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,
Your name is holy, our Father.
Your kingdom come, and Your will be done
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials; save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom, we sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours – Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

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Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us:
And we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, torn for you:
Eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin, shed for you:
Drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Behold the Lamb (verse 4)

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond,
And to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
Around the table of the King.

Benediction:

Now beloved, we go forth in joy to love and serve the Lord, walking out our baptisms as the embodiment of His narrative and the image of His holiness in the world, in His name and to His glory. **Amen. To Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.**

(Ephesians 3:20-21)

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

A thought about worship...

"The church needs to be realigned to the intent of Christ, but it does not need to be reinvented. Reinventing the church is what we do when we allow the culture to shape the church. . . . Obviously the church must speak to the culture. It only speaks authentically and with integrity, however, when speaking out of the story of God. The moment the church capitulates to the culture and speaks out of one or more of the culture's stories and not out of the story of God, the church loses its nature and mission and ceases to be salt and light to the world." Robert E. Webber, *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006, 229.)

Lectionary for next week: 1 Kings 8:1-43; Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18;
Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

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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