

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

January 3, 2016 (Second Sunday after Christmas)

## GATHERING

Lord, open our lips;

And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be ages unto ages.**

**Amen.**

Come, let us worship the LORD,

and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**Alleluia! The Lord is come!**

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given!**

O come, let us adore Him;

let us consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The peoples who dwelt in darkness have seen a great Light!**

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

O come, let us bow in worship before the LORD,

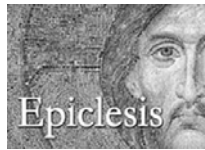
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**Christ, the Word made flesh, unveils to us God's hidden mystery,**

**that we have become joint heirs of the promise of salvation!**

O come, let us worship the LORD, for God has done wondrous things!





*Here I Am to Worship*

Light of the world, You stepped out into darkness,  
Opened my eyes let me see:  
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

*Chorus:*

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted; glorious in heaven above;  
Humbly You came to the earth You created,  
All for love's sake became poor.

CCLI Song #3266032. ©2000 Thankyou Music. Tim Hughes. CCLI License # 3097801

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

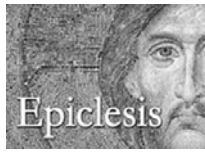
*As With Gladness Men of Old*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed;  
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav'nly King.

Public domain. Text, William C. Dix; Music, Conrad Kocher



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

**In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.**

**He was in the beginning with God.**

All things came into being through Him,  
and apart from Him nothing came into being  
that has come into being.

*In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.  
The Light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness, to testify about the Light,  
so that all might believe through him.

*He was not the Light,  
but he came to bear witness to the Light.*

**The true Light, which gives light to everyone,  
was coming into the world.**

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,  
and the world did not know Him.

*He came to His own,  
and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right  
to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,  
who were born, not of blood. nor of the will of the flesh.  
nor of the will of man, but of God.

**And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,  
and we beheld His glory,  
glory as of the only begotten from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.**

*From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.  
For the law was given through Moses,  
but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

**No one has seen God at any time;  
the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father,  
He has made Him known.**

– from John 1:1-18



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord; so that He might redeem us,  
that we might receive adoption as His children.

*According to His own mercy, He saved us,  
and justified us by His grace,  
that we might become heirs according the hope of eternal life.*

– from Galatians 4:4-5, Titus 3:5-7

[Silent confessions]

Everlasting and loving God, You have stooped down to raise and  
restore fallen humanity. Yet too often we fail to live as Your  
redeemed people.

**We confess that we have sinned against You and against others,  
in what we have done and what we have left undone.  
Forgive us, we pray. Grant that we who have seen Your glory  
revealed in human nature, and Your love made perfect in  
weakness, may daily be renewed in Your image and conformed to  
the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

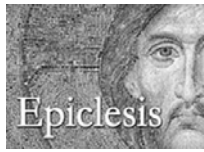
*Blest are the Pure in Heart*

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,  
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul He doth Himself impart;  
And for His cradle and His throne, chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:  
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.  
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836). Public domain.  
Music: Ellen Koehler ©2013.



#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord, the good news of His salvation:  
To all who received Him, who believe in His name,

He gave the right to become children of God.

– John 1:12

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love!**

*He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of his glorious grace that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

Leader:

In him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace that He lavished on us.

– Ephesians 1:3-8

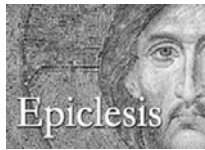
**Thanks be to God!**



#### TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

God of eternity, we bring these humble offerings, signs of Your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of Your love in the Word-made-flesh.  
**Amen.**

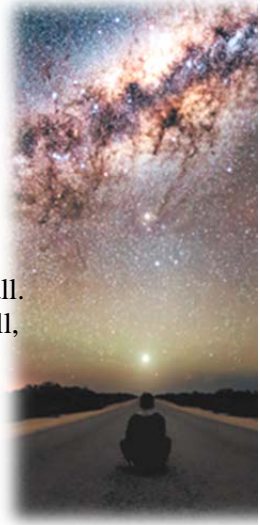


### *I Wonder As I Wander*

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.  
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I,  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
And the promise of the ages it did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,  
He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King



Appalachian carol. Text and music: John Jacob Miles, from a folksong fragment collected in 1933 (pub. 1934, *Songs of the Hill-Folk*.) Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012.

### *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Fair is the sunshine; fairer still the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling starry host.  
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; Transl. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873. Music: CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842. Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010

### THE WORD

John 1:1-18  
Ephesians 1:3-14



The Word Made Flesh, Chris Shreve, contemp.



## 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)

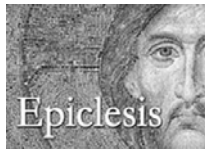
**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,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

### *Fullness of Grace*

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty,  
This is the wonder of Jesus.  
Laying aside His power and glory, humbly He entered our world.  
Chose the path of meanest worth; scandal of a virgin birth.  
Born in a stable, cold and rejected; here lies the hope of the world.

Fullness of grace, the love of the Father  
Shown in the face of Jesus.  
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity, walking the Calvary road.  
Christ the holy innocent took our sin and punishment.  
Fullness of God, despised and rejected;  
Crushed for the sins of the world.

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for,  
Promise of God in Jesus.  
Through His obedience we are forgiven,  
Op'ning the floodgates of heav'n.  
All our hopes and dreams we bring gladly as an offering.  
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable: God's gift in love to the world.



SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness; and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Public domain. Text: Isaac Watts. Music: George Frederick Handel, arr. by Lowell Mason.

Benediction:

Jesus, from the beginning, is the Word, made flesh in our midst.

**May His incarnation fill our hearts with joy and peace.**

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.

**May His birth among us renew our hope.**

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

**May the gift of His presence bring forth rejoicing.**

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

“Stars cross the sky, wise men journey from pagan lands, earth receives its savior in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race. Now it is no longer, ‘dust you are and to dust you shall return,’ but ‘you are joined to heaven and into heaven shall you be taken up.’”  
– Basil the Great

Gathering reading, prayer of confession, and benediction adapted and reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, ©2004 CRC Publications.

**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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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