

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

August 7, 2016 (Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!

For praise is becoming to the upright.

Sing to Him a new song;

Shout for joy, for the word of the LORD is right

and all His work is done in faithfulness.

The earth is full of His lovingkindness.

Blessed are those whose God is the LORD,

the people He has chosen for His own inheritance.

The LORD looks from heaven;

He sees all the children of men.

Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,

On those who hope in His lovingkindness.

We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

In Him our hearts rejoice, because we trust in His holy name.

Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

Even as we hope in You.

— from Psalm 33

O, Worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above,

And gratefully sing His wonderful love;

Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,

Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

Oh, girded with praise.

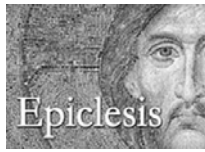
O tell of His might and sing of His grace,

Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;

His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,

And dark is the path on the wings of the storm.

Oh, sing of His grace.



Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
Oh, worship the King, worship the King.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.
Redeemer and Friend, He's our Redeemer and Friend,
Oh, worship the King.
Redeemer and Friend, He's our Redeemer and Friend,
Oh, worship the King. Worship the King.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2004. Words: Robert Grant, *Christian Psalmody*, 1833; adapted from William Kethe, the Genevan *Psalter*, 1561. Hymn tune: LYONS, attrib. to Johann M. Hadyn.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

Lord, open our lips
and our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever,
Forever. Amen, amen, amen.

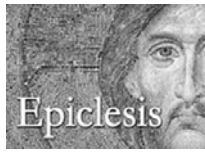
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Because We Believe

Readings from Hebrews 11:1-16

Reading: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. By it, the ancients gained approval from God. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made of things which are visible.



Verse 1 (sung)

We believe in God the Father; we believe in Christ the Son;
We believe in the Holy Spirit; we are the church and we stand as one.

Chorus:

Holy, holy, holy is our God.
Worthy, worthy, worthy is our King.
All glory and honor are His to receive.
To Jesus we sing, because we believe.

Reading: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. For he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Verse 2 (sung)

We believe in the Holy Bible; we believe in the virgin birth;
We believe in the resurrection;
That Christ one day will return to earth.

Chorus

Reading: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Jacob all died in faith, without receiving the promises. But having seen them, they believed and welcomed them from a distance. ... They were longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Verse (sung)

We believe in the blood of Jesus; we believe in eternal life;
We believe in the blood that frees us to become the Bride of Christ.

Chorus

Reading: Without faith it is impossible to please God, for those who come to Him must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Chorus

CCLI Song #2133379 ©1996 Mother's Heart Music. Jamie Harvill, Nancy Gordon.
CCLI License #3097801



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The LORD looks down from heaven; He sees all the children of men.
*From His dwelling place He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth;
He who fashions the hearts of them all, who considers all they do.*

— Psalm 33:13-15

Almighty and loving God, all hearts are open to You.

We confess with sadness that we do not always love You with a whole heart. We too often let fears overwhelm us. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not been mindful of those around us, and we have not been eager to hear Your voice.

[Silent confessions]

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us all our sins. Make us ready, we pray, always to follow Your will and direction in all things, that we may walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. 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.

©2002 Petaluma Music; Setting by David Baker

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rejoice, beloved. These are precious words of promise:

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red as crimson, they shall be as wool.”

—Isaiah 1:18

If You kept a record of sins, O LORD, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness;

so that we can, with reverence, serve You.



Put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love,
and with Him is abundant redemption.

He redeems His people from all their sins.

How blessed are all those who wait for Him!

– Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8; Isaiah 30:18

TIME OF OFFERING

Testimonies and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

I Will Listen

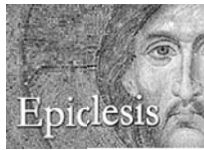
Hard as it seems, standing in dreams,
Where is the dreamer now?
Wonder if I wanted to try,
Would I remember how?
I don't know the way to go from here,
But I know that I have made my choice.
And this is where I stand until He moves me on,
And I will listen to His voice.

This is the faith, patience to wait,
When there is nothing clear;
Nothing to see, still we believe
Jesus is very near.
I cannot imagine what will come,
But I've already made my choice.
And this is where I stand until He moves me on,
And I will listen to His voice.

Could it be that He is only waiting there to see
If I will learn to love the dreams
That He has dreamed for me?

Can't imagine what the future holds,
But I've already made my choice.
And this is where I stand until He moves me on.
And I will listen to His voice.

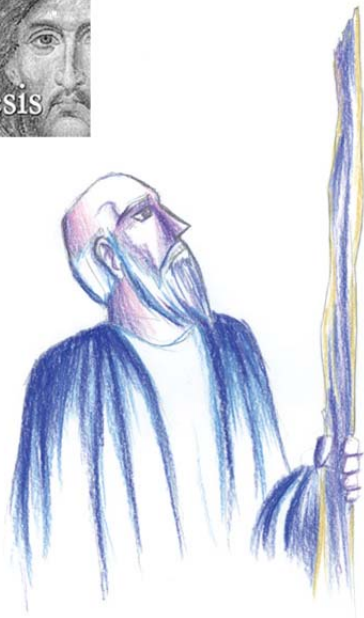
Twila Paris. ©1996 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music.



THE WORD

Genesis 15:1-6;

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16



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.

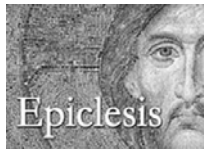
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Abraham, Robert H. Flores, 1999

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are Yours.
Now and forever, Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)



Higher Ground

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain:

Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's table land.
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

Refrain

I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

Refrain

I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found:
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain

Public domain. Words: Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1898; Music: Charles H. Gabriel

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



Higher Ground (refrain)

Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's table land.
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord – ever watchful as we follow Him, prepared and dressed for action, and ever mindful that our treasure is in heavenly things.

Amen.

Now to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations who fear Him, forever and ever.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Jeremiah 23:23-29;
Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Beloved, let us draw near to faith, since its powers are so great. For faith raised Enoch up to heaven . . . It caused the barren to bear children. It delivered people from the sword. It raised us from the pit. It enriched the poor. It released the captives. It delivered the persecuted. It brought down fire. It divided the sea. It split the rock and gave water for the thirsty to drink. It satisfied the hungry. It raised the dead and brought them up from Sheol. It stilled the storm. It healed the sick. It conquered armies. It overthrew walls. It stopped the mouths of lions and quenched the flames of fire. It humiliated the proud and brought the humble honor. . . . When you have read and learned about the works of faith, you can be like the tilled land the good seed fell on. For it produced fruit of thirty, sixty, and a hundred-fold. Then, when you come to your Lord, He will call you a good servant, thoughtful and faithful. On account of His faith that abound in you, you will enter the kingdom of your Lord.”

– Aphrahat

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Jeremiah 23:23-29;
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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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