

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 11, 2016



GATHERING

Leader: We are gathered in joyful expectation to praise and worship
the LORD, Emmanuel, the Coming One.

**Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God:**

He made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
He keeps faith forever.

He executes justice for the oppressed, He gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

*The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.*

The LORD watches over the strangers;

He upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

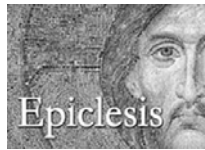
**The LORD will reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!**

– Psalm 146:5-10

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!





Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed;
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

Bridge:

Let us rejoice! (I will rejoice!) Rejoice in Him! (I will rejoice!)
Let us rejoice! (I will rejoice!) I will rejoice, I will rejoice!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

We will rejoice! (Rejoice in Him!) We will rejoice! (Rejoice in Him!)
We will rejoice! (Rejoice in Him!)
We will rejoice, we will rejoice; We will rejoice.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.

Setting and Bridge: Ellen Koehler ©2014. Words: Henry J. van Dyke, 1907. Music: HYMN TO JOY, from the Ninth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven, adapted by Edward Hodges, 1824.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

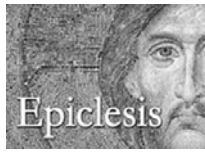
God of all hope and joy, **Open our hearts in welcome, that Your Son, Jesus Christ, at His coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Latin hymn, 12th century; transl. John M. Neale, 1851.
Hymn tune: VENI EMMANUEL, 15th century plainsong.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world, and who is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, born a descendant of David according to the flesh; born of a woman, born under the Law; in the likeness of sinful flesh, to be an offering for our sin; so that He might redeem us, that we might receive adoption as His children.

God also highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

– from Hebrews 1:1-3; Romans 1:3, 8:3-4; Galatians 4:3-4, Philippians 2:9-11

Gaudete (Rejoice!)

Antiphon:

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine, Gaudete!

(Translation: Rejoice, rejoice the Christ is born of Mary; rejoice!)

Cantor:

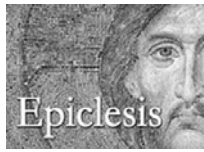
Time of Grace has come we've prayed, Time of Grace is on us;
Let us sing our songs of joy, songs of our salvation.

God made man is born today, born while nature wonders;
All is new by Christ the King, King of all the ages.

Darkness that has bound the soul, shattered with this dawning;
Where the light is shining bright salvation is calling.

Therefore let us all rejoice! Purity surrounds us.
Jesus Christ is born today, heaven's voice resounding.

Gaudete (English Translation) arr. ©Tony Matthews 2005 www.tonymatthews.org



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
on those who hope in His steadfast love.

Our soul waits for the LORD;

He is our help and our shield.

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

*Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
Even as we hope in You.*

– Psalm 33:18, 20-22

[Silent confessions]

**O promised Christ,
We confess that we are a sinful people.
Our pardon depends on Your coming.
We are full of good intentions
but weak at keeping promises.
Our only hope of doing God's will
is that You should come and help us do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh,
we wait with joyful expectation
for Your peace,
for Your pardon,
and for Your grace.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 4)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the great glad tidings the prophets did foretell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Public domain. Words: Philip Brooks, 1867; Music: Lewis Redner, 1868.
(Lyric alteration for Advent)



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;

He has turned away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD your God, is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will renew you in his love; He will exult over you with loud singing.

— from Zephaniah 3:14-17

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

Jesus, I am Resting

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art.

I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, and Thy beauty fills my soul.

For by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.

Chorus:

Jesus, I am resting, resting

In the joy of what Thou art.

I am finding out the greatness

Of Thy loving heart.

Oh, how great Thy loving kindness, vaster, broader than the sea.

Oh, how marvelous Thy goodness lavished all on me.

Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved, know what wealth of grace is Thine;

Know Thy certainty of promise and have made it mine.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art.

And Thy love so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;

Satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its ev'ry need,

Compasseth me 'round with blessings, this is love indeed.

CCLI Song #2697066; ©1998 New Spring; Words by Jean Sophia Pigott; Music by David Hampton. CCLI License # 3097801



LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Lighting of the candle

*We light this candle as a symbol of joy. May the joyful promise of
Your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.*

Response:

O Dayspring, Splendor of Eternal Light and Sun of Righteousness:

**Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.**

THE WORD

Isaiah 35:1-10

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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Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, Thou light of men;
From the best bliss that earth imparts
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood,
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee Thou art good,
To them that find Thee all in all.

We taste Thee, O Thou living bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
Blest when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay, make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away, shed o'er the world Thy holy light.

Words: Bernard of Clairveaux; tr. Ray Palmer. Music: Claude L. Bass ©1960 Broadman Press

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
And my spirit exults in God my Savior.
For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness,
And His name will be forever exalted.
For the mighty God has done great things for me,
And His mercy will reach from age to age.

And holy, holy, holy is His name.

CCLI Song # 14497 ©1980 Birdwing Music; John Michael Talbot



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Jesus, I am Resting (verse 4)

Ever lift Thy face upon me as I work and wait for Thee;
Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of the Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with Thy grace.

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art.
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

Benediction:

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who came once in humility and will come again in triumph and glory, fill your hearts with joyful expectation at all times, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Amen!

Now may the God of peace Himself strengthen your hearts, and sanctify and preserve you complete and blameless as you patiently wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. For His coming is near.

— based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 and James 5:7-8

Thanks be to God! Come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!

A thought about worship...— “Advent is the time when God breaks in on us with new surprises and touches us with a renewing and restoring power.... We should use the Advent season as a period to identify the matters from which we need to be redeemed. Identify whatever it is that seems to be holding you in its power.... Commit it to the One who comes to set the prisoners free, turn it over to Christ in prayer, and ask the one who has come into your life to take this problem up into Himself.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 38, 51).

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Portions of the prayer of Confession adapted and reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, ©2004 CRC Publications.

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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