

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

January 8, 2017 (Baptism of the Lord)

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

## 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.**

Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness!*

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
The God of glory thunders!

*The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning;  
His voice shakes the wilderness!*

**The voice of the LORD is powerful, and full of majesty.  
In His temple all say, "Glory!"**

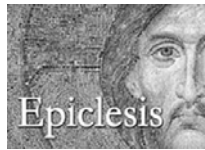
The LORD sits enthroned over the flood,  
*Yes, the LORD sits enthroned as King forever.*

The LORD will give strength to His people.  
*The LORD will bless His people with peace.*

Come, let us sing His praise, and give thanks to His holy name.

— from Psalm 29





*All Creatures of Our God and King*

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam;  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along: O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice.  
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou fire, so masterful and bright,  
Thou givest man both warmth and light,  
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: St. Francis of Assisi, c. 1225; transl. William H. Draper, 1919. Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623; hymn tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN.

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

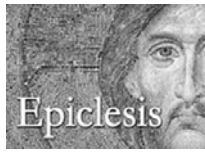
*All Creatures of Our God and King*

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness: O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One.  
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Amen*

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen. (Sing it over ...)

See the little baby (amen), Lyin' in a manger (amen),  
On Christmas morning – Amen, amen, amen.



See Him in the temple (amen), Talkin' to the elders (amen),  
Who marvel at His wisdom – Amen, amen, amen.

See Him at the Jordan (amen), Where John was baptizin' (amen),  
And the Spirit came upon Him – Amen, amen, amen.

See Him at the sea side (amen), Preachin' and healin' (amen)  
The blind and the feeble – Amen, amen, amen.

See Him in the garden (amen), Prayin' to His Father (amen),  
In deepest sorrow – Amen, amen, amen.

Then they crucified Him (amen), Jesus, our Savior (amen),  
And He rose on Easter! Amen, amen, amen.

Hallelujah! (amen), He died to save us (amen),  
And He lives forever - Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

Public domain. Words and music: traditional African-American spiritual.

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together affirm the testimony of the apostle Peter:

God shows no partiality:

**But in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right  
is accepted by Him.**

This is the message God sent, announcing the good news of peace  
through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

**This message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after  
the baptism that John announced: that God anointed Jesus of  
Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;  
He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed  
by the devil, for God was with Him.**

And yet they put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree.

**But God raised Him to life on the third day and revealed Him to  
those who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and  
drank with Him after He rose from the dead.**

He is the One ordained by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

**Of Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes  
in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.**

—based on Acts 10:34-43



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

The call and promise of the Lord:

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

*“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh, and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”*

– Ezekiel 36:25-27

Eternal and merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name’s sake. Yet we have strayed from your way.

[Silence]

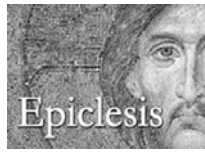
We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,  
through what we have done and what we have left undone,  
and we have wandered from your pathway.

[Silent confessions]

**As we remember the cleansing water of baptism, O God, we praise You and give You thanks that You forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with You, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.**

## *Whiter Than Snow*

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;  
I want You forever to live in my soul.  
Break down ev’ry idol, cast out ev’ry foe.  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.



Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, look down from Your throne in the skies,  
And help me to make a complete sacrifice.  
I give up myself and whatever I know;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Lord Jesus, before You I patiently wait;  
Come now and within me a new heart create.  
To those who have sought You, You never said no.  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2014. Text: James Nicholson; Music: William G. Fischer



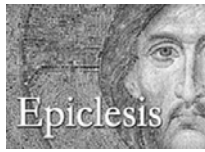
#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,  
He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but  
according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and  
renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly  
through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace  
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is a trustworthy saying.

– Titus 3:4-5

**Thanks be to God!**



## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

God of heaven and earth, You call us to come in humility before You, bringing the offering of our very selves. As You revealed Jesus to be Your Son in His baptism, so You claimed our lives in baptism, that we might walk in newness of life.

**Accept all we have and all we are, O God, as expressions of our devotion, love and worship. May Your presence flow through us always.**

### *Let the Rain of Your Presence*

Let the rain of Your presence fall on me  
Every day that I live, with every breath I breathe;  
Let the rain of Your presence fall on me  
Everywhere that I go, Lord, let Your presence flow;  
Rain on me.

Love divine, joy unspeakable  
Overflowing in my soul;  
This heart of mine is refreshed and at rest  
In Your presence, in Your presence.

CCLI Song #1606354 ©1994 Praise On The Rock Music; Danny Chambers  
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## THE WORD

Matthew 3:13-17

## 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!

Chris Alford and Ellen Koehler . ©2014. All rights reserved.

### *Flow Like a River*

Flow like a river, fall like the rain;  
Streams of compassion flow from His throne.  
Wide as the ocean, deep as the sea;  
Life-giving fountain, is God's love for me.

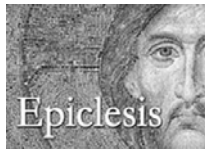
Feast at the table of mercy,  
Drink from the cup of His grace.  
Dwell in His infinite goodness,  
Live in His healing embrace.

CCLI Song # 2989523 ©2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Steve Merkel.

### *Living Water*

Come, Living Water flow through me like a river.  
My heart's been thirsting so long.  
Flood through my soul and pour out your mercy.  
Come, Living Water, fill me.

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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *All Creatures of Our God and King (Doxology)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below:  
O Praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

#### Benediction:

God the Father, who sent His Spirit upon His Son,  
    bless you with the presence of His Spirit. **Amen.**  
Jesus, who received the Spirit and manifested the Father,  
    abide in you and make you a manifestation of His life. **Amen.**  
And God the Spirit, who came upon Christ in the fullness of power,  
    empower you to live in the pattern of baptismal spirituality  
    revealed in Jesus.  
To the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*A thought about worship...*— “The baptized life is a life that is lived in the *pattern of death and resurrection*. . . . The way of being in Jesus, the way of living the new resurrected life, is through participation. . . . We participate in Christ by living the life of our baptism into his death and resurrection. This is a daily, existential, moment-by-moment experience as we choose in this or that situation to die to the sins for which Christ died and choose the life of the Spirit for which Christ was raised to a new life.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 146-147.)

***Lectionary for next week:*** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9;  
John 1:29-42

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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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