

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

February 18, 2018 (First Sunday of Lent)

## GATHERING

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!

**Your covenant love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,**

**Your faithfulness extends to the skies.**

How precious is Your steadfast love, O God!

**Your righteousness towers like the mountains,**

**Your justice is deeper than the sea.**

Oh, how abundant is Your goodness, which You have stored up for  
those who fear You and worked for those who take refuge in You.

**Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow  
of Your wings.**

O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,

And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

**To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls.**

**For the LORD is good and His mercy endures forever;**

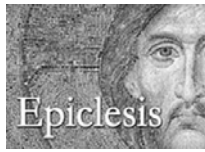
**His faithfulness continues through all generations!**

Come, let us lift our hearts in worship and thanksgiving  
to our faithful God!

– Scripture weaving from Psalms 25, 31, 36, 100



Chalk Paths, Eric Ravillious, 1935



*Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

*Chorus:*

Come, now is the time to worship;  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship,  
Come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.

One day every tongue will confess You are God;  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly praise You now.

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives;  
Willingly our knees will bow.  
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength  
We gladly praise You now.

CCLI Song #2430948 ©1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire); Brian Doerksen  
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## PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

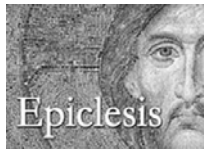
Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Words: Reginald Heber, 1826; Hymn tune: NICAEA; John B. Dykes, 1861  
Setting: Ellen Koehler.©2012



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

Christ Jesus existed in the form of God –  
for in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.  
*Although He existed in the form of God,  
He did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped.*

But He emptied Himself,  
taking the form of a bond-servant,  
being born in human likeness.  
*And being found in human form,  
He humbled Himself,  
and became obedient to the point of death –  
even death on a cross.*

**For this reason 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 Colossians 1:19, 2:9; Philipians 2:5-11

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

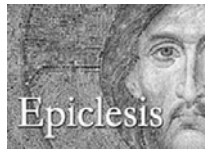
Be gracious to me, O LORD,  
for to You I cry all day long.  
*Gladden the soul of Your servant,  
for to You I Lift up my soul.*

For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.

– Psalm 86:3-5

*Psalm 25:1-10*

*Refrain (sung):*  
To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in You I put my trust.



(Chanted)

Let me not be put to \*shame;  
Let not my enemies triumph over \*me.  
Let not those who wait for You be put to \*shame;  
Let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacher-\*ous.

Make me to know Your ways, O \*LORD;  
Teach me Your paths; lead me in Your\*truth;  
For You are the God of my sal-\*vation;  
For You I wait all day \*long.

*Refrain*

(spoken)

**Be mindful of Your mercy, O LORD, and of Your steadfast love,  
For they have been from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
According to Your steadfast love remember me,  
For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.**

[Silence]

(Chanted)

Keep my soul, and deliver \*me;  
Let me not be ashamed, for You are my \*refuge.  
Let integrity and uprightness pre-\*serve me,  
For I hope in \*You.

*Refrain*

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#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.  
*He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble His way.*

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
For those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

– Psalm 25:8-10



## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

### *He's Always Been Faithful*

Morning by morning I wake up to find  
The power and comfort of God's hand in mine.  
Season by season I watch Him amazed,  
In awe of the mystery of His perfect ways.  
All I have need of His hand will provide;  
He's always been faithful to me.

I can't remember a trial or a pain  
He did not recycle to bring me gain.  
I can't remember one single regret  
In serving God only and trusting His hand.  
All I have need of His hand will provide;  
He's always been faithful to me.

### *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

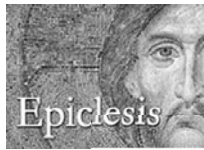
Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

©1923, 1951 by Hope Publishing Company Thomas O. Chisholm, William M. Runyan

This is my anthem, this is my song,  
The theme of the story I've heard for so long:  
God has been faithful, He will be again;  
His loving compassion, it knows no end.  
All I have need of His hand will provide.  
He's always been faithful, He's always been faithful,  
He's always been faithful to me.

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## THE WORD

Psalm 25

## 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.**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again!**



*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**

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,

While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.

Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;

Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.



Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee;  
Leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;  
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in Thee I find;  
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is Thy name, I am all unrighteousness;  
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;  
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee;  
Spring Thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012. Words: Charles Wesley, *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1740.  
Hymn tune: ABERYSTWTH (Parry). 1879.

### *Holy*

I will lift my voice, and I will sing, I will sing holy, holy.  
To my Lord and Savior, my God and King: I will sing holy, holy.

### *Chorus:*

I will praise the Lamb of God who sits upon the throne.  
I will worship Him, and give the praise to Him alone.  
He who was and is and is to come:  
I will sing before His throne forever, forever.

All the angels sing, and they bow down;  
And they sing holy, holy.  
We, Your sons and daughters, we praise You now:  
And we cry holy, holy.

Donnie McClurkin. ©2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music.

## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body



*Great is Thy Faithfulness (chorus)*

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

**Benediction:**

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, loving and serving the Lord, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent, walking in Christ's own footsteps and taking on His likeness. Take care to answer honestly when someone asks, "How is it with your soul?" And in all circumstances, keep yourself oriented upward toward our loving Father.

And whether the Spirit asks you to put something off, or take something on, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus – as we, His covenant people, follow Him on the way to the cross.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

*A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –*

"Let us dwell on the fact that while the Lord is with us, our enemies can't hurt us. When they approach us, they conform to the state they find us in. They adapt their delusions to the condition of our minds. Therefore, if they find us timid and confused, they will attack us like robbers, finding our minds unguarded. They think of us as we think about ourselves. For if they find us to be weak and cowardly, they increase our terror by delusions and threats; the unhappy souls are then tormented by these things. But if they see us rejoicing in the Lord, contemplating future bliss, mindful of the Lord, regarding all things to be in His hand, and knowing that no evil spirit has any strength against Christians, nor power over anyone—our enemies are defeated and turned backwards by the strength of these thoughts. Seeing Job fortified in this way, the enemy withdrew from him. But finding Judas unguarded, the enemy took him captive. Therefore, if we want to look down on the enemy, we must always think about the things of the Lord. Our souls must always rejoice in hope. Then we will see that the devil's snares are like smoke and the evil ones will flee rather than pursue us."

– Athanasius

**Lectionary for next week:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
[www.Epiclesis.org](http://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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