

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 9, 2018



GATHERING

The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks
and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth!

Our God comes; He does not keep silence.

In love, He gathers His covenant people to Him.

The earth is full of Your steadfast love, O LORD!

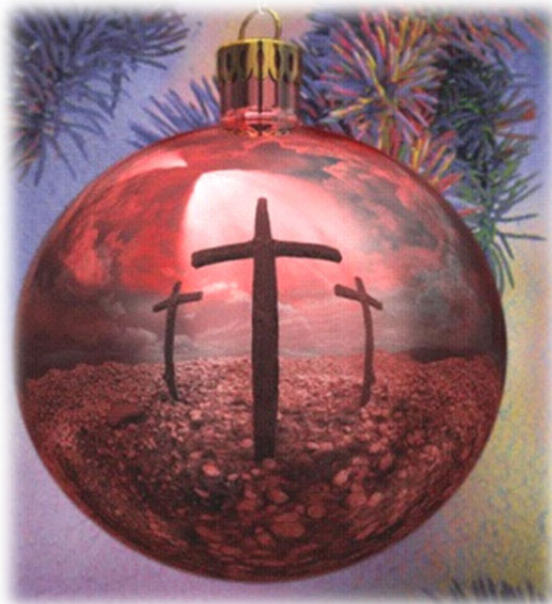
May Your lovingkindnesses come to us,

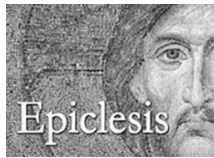
Your salvation according to Your promise.

*May the LORD make His face to shine upon us,
and show us His unfailing love.*

With preparation and in expectation, then,
let us worship the Coming One!

– from Psalms 50, 85, 119





Long Ago, Prophets Knew

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
Come to make all things new,
Bear his people's burden, freely love and pardon.
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!
When He comes, when He comes, who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan;
He will come, as a man, born himself of woman,
God divinely human.
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!
When He comes, when He comes, who will make him welcome?

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid
Till the time expected, nurtured and protected.
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!
When He comes, when He comes, who will make him welcome?

Journey ends! Where afar Bethl'hem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar,
Unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry!
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes, we will make him welcome!

Public domain. Tune: PERSONENT HODIE, 1582, arr. Gustav Holst. Words: Fred Pratt Green

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

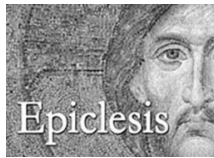
Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

O Wisdom proceeding from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from eternity to eternity and ordering all things
with strength and sweetness:

Come, teach us the way of knowledge.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things, far and nigh;



To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go.

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

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

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of His servant David.
*Through His holy prophets He promised of old, that He would save us
from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.*
Thus He has shown the mercy promised to our fathers,
and has remembered His holy covenant.
*This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies:*

**Free to serve Him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness all our days.**
**In the tender mercy of our God, the Dayspring from on high has
come to us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

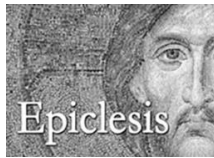
– adapted from Canticle 16, “The Song of Zechariah” (Luke 1:68-79)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

Words: 15th-century carol, *Es is ein Ros entsprungen*; verses 1-2 transl. from the German by Theodore Baker, 1894; verse 3 transl. by Harriet Krauth, 1875. Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599; harmony, Michael Praetorius, 1609.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Show us Your steadfast love, O God, our Savior,
and grant us Your salvation.

*Listen to what the LORD our God says: He promises peace to His
people, His faithful servants, to those who turn their hearts to Him.*

– Psalm 85:7-8

**Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.**

[Silence]

**We do not always love you with a pure heart.
We do not always love our neighbor as ourselves.
We do not always do justice and love kindness.**

[Silent confessions]

**We desire to walk humbly with You, in Your ways, for the sake of
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Have mercy on us, O God, in Your
loving-kindness. Cleanse us from our sin, that we may be holy
and blameless before You.**

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

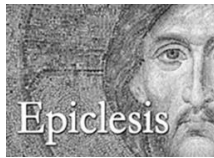
Surely God's salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that His glory may dwell among us.

*Lovingkindness and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.*

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

*The LORD will indeed give what is good; righteousness will go before
Him and shall make His footsteps our pathway.* – from Psalm 85:9-13

Thanks be to God!



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

In the psalms of David and the words of the prophets, Your promise is spoken, Almighty and all-loving God, and takes flesh in the fullness of time in the virgin's womb.

May Emmanuel find welcome anew in our hearts and become incarnate in our lives. In gratitude and in worship, we now bring Your tithes and our offerings.

Come Emmanuel

Come and speak to us, come and renew us;
Come and live through us, Emmanuel.
Grace to implore us, ever before us;
Come and restore us, Emmanuel.

Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel;
Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel.

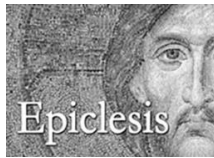
Once mercy found us, still You astound us;
Hold and surround us, Emmanuel.
Living inside us, faithful to guide us;
Cover and hide us, Emmanuel.

Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel;
Come Emmanuel, come –

Love that begins us, pardons and wins us;
Come and reign in us, Emmanuel.
Come and speak to us, fill and renew us;
Come and live through us, Emmanuel.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

CCLI Song #3999938 (lyrics). ©2003 Ariose Music. Twila Paris.
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LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Lighting of the candle



Prepare the way of the Lord.

We light this candle as a symbol of proclamation and in the love that Jesus, our Savior, has for us.

May the word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Leader: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

THE WORD

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

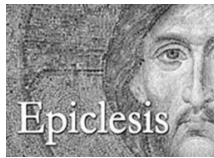
Lift up your hearts.

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**

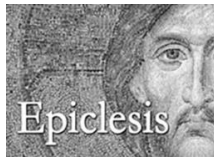
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2011. Words: Charles Wesley. Hymn tune: John Zundel, BEECHER



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verse 4)

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2011. Words: Charles Wesley. Hymn tune: John Zundel, BEECHER

Benediction:

Dear friends, stretch out your hands and receive these words of blessing into your hearts, as you go out into your world to love and serve the Lord – watching and waiting with eager anticipation the coming of Christ:

I am confident of this: that He who began a good work in you
will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.
And may your love abound more and more,
so that you may be pure and blameless at His coming,
filled with the fruit of righteousness
to the glory and praise of God.

– from Philippians 1:6-11

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!

A thought about worship... – “In Advent we celebrate the beginning and ending of Christ’s victory over the powers of evil, and we call upon God to accomplish that victory in our own lives, to break in on us, to be born in our hearts, and to create us anew. This is the message of Isaiah to us: a Savior is coming not only to Israel but to the whole world.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 44).

Lectionary for next week: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

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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