

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March \8, 2020 (Second Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Songs and Prayers from Taizé; ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé, France

I will lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where shall my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

He will not allow your foot to slip;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, He who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

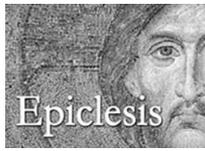
The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.

**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

– Psalm 121





Made Me Glad

I will bless the Lord forever;
I will trust Him at all times.
He has delivered me from all fear;
He has set my feet upon a rock.
And I will not be moved,
And I'll say of the Lord –

Chorus:

You are my Shield, my Strength,
My portion, Deliverer;
My Shelter, Strong Tower,
My very present Help in time of need.

Whom have I in heaven but You?
There's none I desire beside You.
And You have made me glad,
I'll say of the Lord –

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

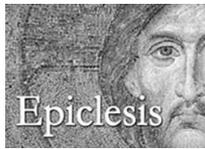
Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.



Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

God has given us life –
we who were dead in the trespasses and sins
in which we once walked,
following the course of this world;
we who were by nature children of wrath,
like the rest of humankind.

**But God, being rich in mercy,
because of His great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
made us alive together with Christ,
and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable
riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

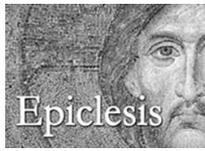
For by grace you have been saved through faith.

And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life.**

For God did not send His Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

— from Ephesians 2:1-9; John 3:16-17



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Pastoral call to confession

Most merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding. In creation You fashioned us in Your image; in Christ You revealed Your love; through the Holy Spirit we are born anew and welcomed into community with You and Your people.

Yet we confess that too often we have strayed from Your way.

[Silence]

In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored Your name.

[Silence]

Our lives distort Your image, but still You restore us.

[Silence]

We often betray Your love, yet still You extend it.

[Silence]

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. In Your great mercy, forgive us – not because we are worthy, but for the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us – that we may walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Have mercy on me, a sinner.

Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus Christ.

Kyrie eleison, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Have mercy on me, a sinner.

CCLI Song # 4091787 ©2003 Mail Train Music. Phil Madeira



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The proof of God's amazing love is this:
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but so that the world through Him might be saved.*

All those who believe in Him are not condemned, because
they have believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God,
and have loved the Light. They have come to the Light,
that they may walk in the truth.

– from Romans 5:8, John 3:17-21

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

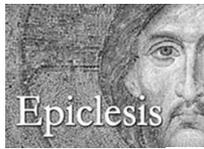
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward to my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

Traditional. Text: Samuel Trevor Francis. Tune: Thomas J. Williams (Hymn tune: EBENEZER);
Setting Ellen Koehler ©2008



THE WORD

John 3:1-17

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace



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.

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,

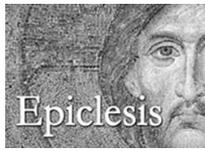
How vast beyond all measure;

That He should give His only Son

To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss!

The Father turns His face away.



As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

CCLI Song #1558110 ©1995 Thankyou Music. Stuart Townend

SENDING FORTH The Life of the Body

Benediction

May the Lord bless us and keep us.
May the Lord smile on us, shine His light upon us.
May the Lord lift us, turn His face towards us,
Give us His peace, give us His peace.

Blessed we came to this place today,
And blessed now, we will go.
In the name of the Father, the Spirit, and the Son.

Go now in peace; go now in peace.

CCLI Song #7000703 ©2013 Atlas Mountain Songs | Said and Done Music | sixsteps Music |
Thankyou Music | worshiptogether.com songs. Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin



Benediction:

Brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, do so remembering that God, who has called us and made is alive together with Christ, is faithful. His steadfast love never ceases and never fails.

Amen.

Now may the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance, as you walk in Christ's own footsteps, taking on His likeness, in this journey of Lent from death to life.

We remember, and we go with grateful hearts into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Images: Page 1: Brabazon, "Mountain Landscape" (d. 1906). Page 6: Lauren Wright Pittman, "Born Again" (2016). Creative Commons/Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“‘We must be persuaded how much God loved us and what type of people we were whom he loved.’ We must be persuaded how much God loved us so that we don't shrink from Him in despair. And we need to be shown also what kind of people we are whom He loved so that we also don't withdraw from Him out of pride. But He dealt with us so that we could profit from His strength, and, in the weakness of humility, our holiness could be perfected. One of the Psalms implies this. It says, ‘Thou, O God, didst send a spontaneous rain, whereby Thou didst make Thine inheritance perfect, when it was weary.’ The ‘spontaneous rain’ is grace given freely and not according to merit. He didn't give it because we were worthy, but because He willed. Knowing this, we shouldn't trust in ourselves. That is what is meant by being made ‘weak.’ However, He perfects us and says to the Apostle Paul, ‘My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.’ We, then, must be persuaded how much God loved us and what type of people we were whom He loved. The former is important, lest we despair; the latter, lest we become proud.”

– Augustine

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11;
John 4:5-42

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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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