

An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
*Liturgy*  
December 13, 2020

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Lighting of the candle

Prepare the way of the Lord.

*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.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel!**

Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.



*Let It Rise*

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us. (repeat)

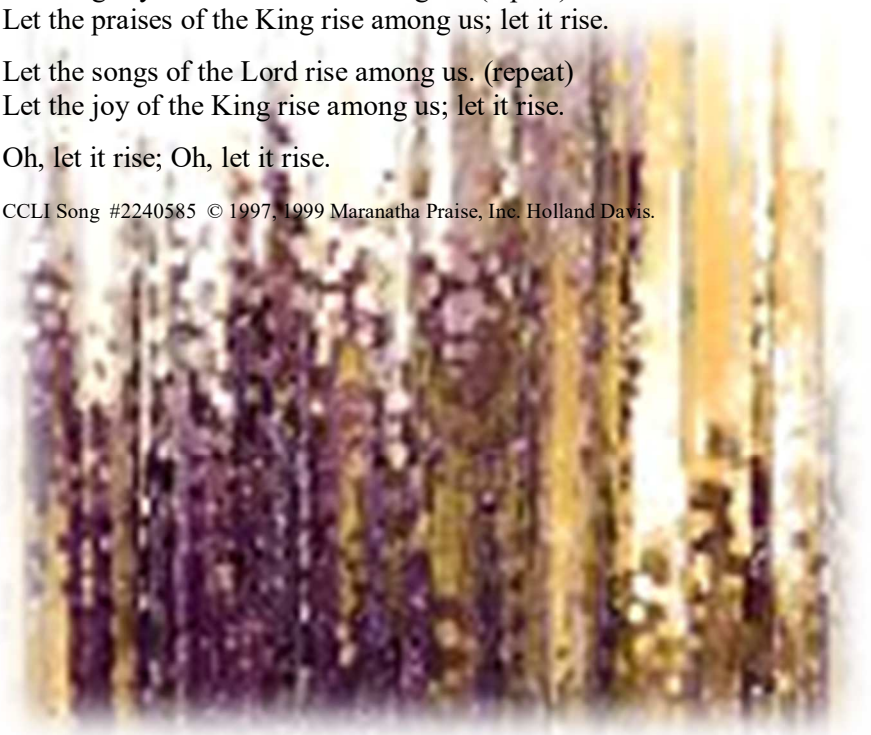
Let the praises of the King rise among us; let it rise.

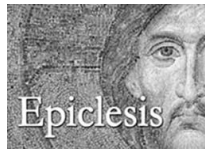
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us. (repeat)

Let the joy of the King rise among us; let it rise.

Oh, let it rise; Oh, let it rise.

CCLI Song #2240585 © 1997, 1999 Maranatha Praise, Inc. Holland Davis.





## *Holy Is the Lord God Almighty*

### *Bridge*

It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown.  
It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown:

And together we sing; everyone sing:

### *Chorus*

Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory.  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty. the earth is filled with His glory,  
The earth is filled with His glory.

We stand and lift up our hands,  
For the joy of the Lord is our strength.  
We bow down and worship Him now;  
How great, how awesome is He.

And together we sing; everyone sing: . . .

CCLI Song #4158039 ©2003 worshiptogether.com songs; Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

## GATHERING

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

Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done glorious things;  
Let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout aloud, and sing for joy, O people of Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

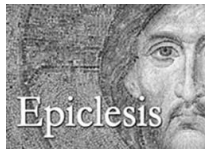
**Then our mouths were filled with laughter,  
and our tongues with shouts of joy.**

Then it was said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

**The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad!**

**We have trusted in Your lovingkindness;  
Our hearts shall rejoice in Your salvation.**



Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;  
And let those who love Your salvation say continually:  
**“The LORD be magnified!”**

– Scripture weaving from Isaiah 12:5-6; Psalms 126:1-3, 13:5, 40:16

*Gaudete (Rejoice!)*

Traditional 16<sup>th</sup> century carol. Trans. Anon.

Antiphon:

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, Gaudete!  
(Translation: Rejoice, rejoice the Christ is born of Mary; rejoice!)

Cantor (solo):

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 in human flesh, while all 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.  
Let us bless the Lord, our King; heav'n and earth resounding!

PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

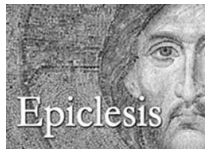
O Dayspring, Splendor of Eternal Light and Sun of Righteousness:  
**Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.**

*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!

Latin hymn, 12<sup>th</sup> C; transl. John M. Neale, 1851. Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, 15<sup>th</sup> C 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

## 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 heart rejoices in Him,  
because we trust in His holy name.

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

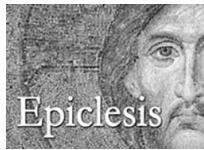
– Psalm 33:18, 20-22

Most merciful God, always with us, always coming:

You pardon all who truly repent and turn to You.

**We confess with sadness that we have not always kept watch  
for You. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.  
We have not loved You with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

[Silent confessions]



Have mercy on us, O God, in Your loving-kindness.

In Your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

**Create in us a clean heart, O God,**

**and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Restore to us the joy of our salvation**

**and sustain us with Your bountiful Spirit,**

**that we may walk in Your ways always,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

— based on Psalm 51:10-12

### *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

The word of the Lord, His faithful and true promise:

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD.

For the LORD will comfort His people; joy and gladness will be  
found in them, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

*And His justice will be a light to the peoples: His salvation will be  
forever, and His deliverance will never be ended.*

— from Isaiah 51:1-6

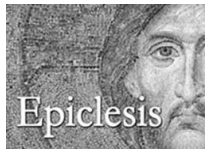
Thanks be to God! And may the LORD be magnified forever!

For the Mighty One has done great things for us,  
and holy is His name. His mercy is for those who fear Him,  
from generation to generation.

— from Luke 1:46-50

### TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude



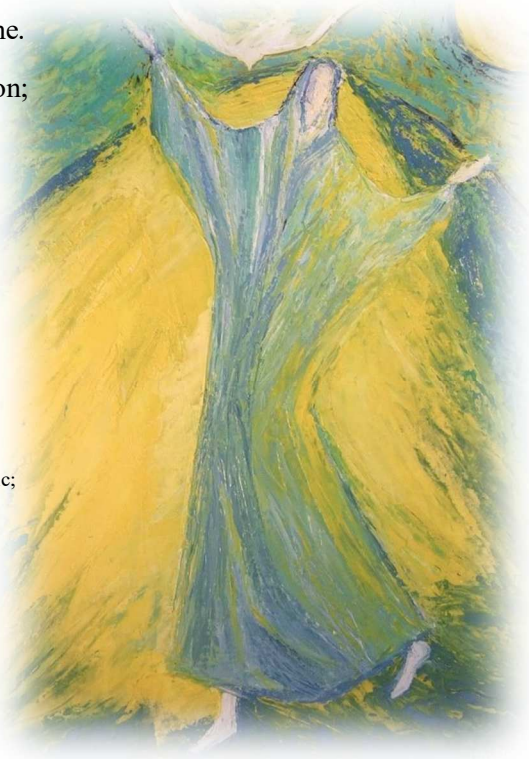
## *The Magnificat*

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.

He has mercy in ev'ry generation;  
He has revealed  
His power and His glory.  
He has cast down  
The mighty in their arrogance,  
And has lifted up  
The meek and the lowly.  
He has come to help  
His servant Israel;  
He remembers His promise  
To our fathers.

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



## THE WORD

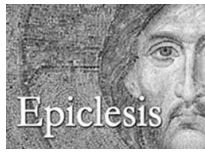
Luke 1:46b-55

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

## 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, 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:*

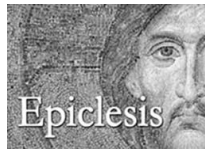
Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art.  
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

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.

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**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:**

Beloved, hear and take these words of blessing and exhortation into your hearts, as you watch and wait with eager anticipation the coming of Christ:

Rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. So may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

— from Philipians 4:4-7

Now, 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.

**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).

*Image credits.* p. 1: Mark Lawrence, “Glory and Majesty,” contemp; p. 6 Macha Chmakoff, “Magnificat à la Trinité,” contemp.

**Lectionary for next week:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26;  
Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55

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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