

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

January 3, 2021 (Second Sunday of Christmastide)

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.

Come, let us worship the LORD,

and consider what wondrous things God has done:

Alleluia! The Lord is come!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given!

O come, let us adore Him;

let us consider what wondrous things God has done:

The peoples who dwelt in darkness have seen a great Light!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

O come, let us bow in worship before the LORD,

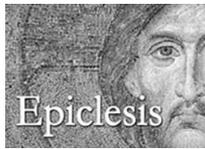
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

Christ, the Word made flesh, unveils to us God's hidden mystery,

that we have become joint heirs of the promise of salvation!

O come, let us worship the LORD, for God has done wondrous things!





O Children Come

Hear the cry from Bethlehem: "O children, come!"
Son of God now born to men: "O children, come!"
Bring your troubles, bring your fears;
Bring the needs that draw you near.
Find the hope of all the years:
"O children, come! O children, come!"

Peace on earth, good will to men: "O children, come!"
Righteous rule that will not end: "O children, come!"
Lay down all our bitterness;
Turn from sin's toil and distress;
Find His grace and perfect rest.
"O children, come! O children, come!"

Where the Father's grace has walked: "O children, come!"
Where you see the hurt and lost: "O children, come!"
Show the mercy shown to you;
Gifts of kindness to renew;
Love from hearts sincere and true;
"O children, come! O children, come!"

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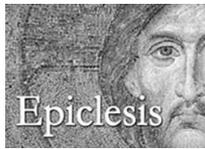
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us!
His name is called Emmanuel.

CCLI Song #12949 ©1976 C. A. Music. Bob McGee.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through Him,
and apart from Him nothing came into being
that has come into being.

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

*The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,
and the world did not know Him.

He came to His own,

and those who were His own did not receive Him.

But as many as received Him,

to them He gave the right to become children of God,
even to those who believe in His name,
who were born, not of blood. nor of the will of the flesh.
nor of the will of man, but of God.

**And the Word became flesh,
and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,
glory as of the only begotten from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

*For the law was given through Moses,
but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

**No one has seen God at any time;
the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father,
He has made Him known.**

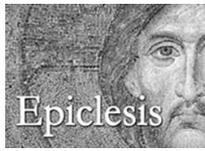
— from John 1:1-18

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord; so that He might redeem us,
that we might receive adoption as His children.

*According to His own mercy, He saved us and justified us by His grace,
that we might become heirs according the hope of eternal life.*

— from Galatians 4:4-5, Titus 3:5-7



[Silence]

Everlasting and loving God, You stooped down to raise and restore fallen humanity. Yet too often we fail to live as Your redeemed people.

We confess that we have sinned against You and against others, in what we have done and what we have left undone.

Forgive us, we pray.

Grant that we who have seen Your glory revealed in human nature, and Your love made perfect in weakness, may daily be renewed in Your image and conformed to the pattern of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Blest are the Pure in Heart

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul He doth Himself impart;
And for His cradle and His throne, chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836). Music: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord, the good news of His salvation:

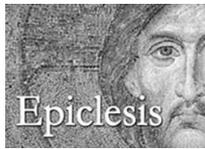
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love!

He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace that He lavished on us.

— Ephesians 1:3-8

Thanks be to God!



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise.

I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus
'Twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers
And shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven
A star's light did fall,
And the promise of the ages
It did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King.

Appalachian carol. Text and music: John Jacob Miles,
from a folksong fragment collected in 1933.
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012.

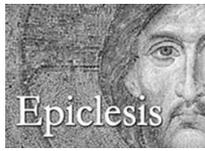


Fairest Lord Jesus

Fair is the sunshine; fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; Transl. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873. Music:
CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842. Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010



THE WORD

Ephesians 1:3-14

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.

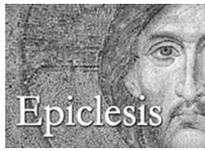
And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen



O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

O sing a song of Bethlehem,
Of shepherds watching there;
And of the news that came to them
From angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
The angels sing alway.

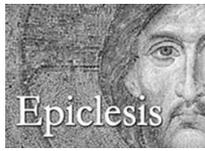
O sing a song of Nazareth,
Of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
And of the sinless Boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth
In every heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of His dear name
On all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee,
Of lake and woods and hill,
Of Him who walked upon the sea
And bade the waves be still;
For though like waves on Galilee,
Dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word,
Falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary,
Its glory and dismay,
Of Him who hung upon the tree,
And took our sins away.
For He who died on Calvary
Is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,
Is mighty now to save.

Words: Louis F. Benson, 1899. Hymn tune: KINGSFOLD,
arr. Ellen Koehler ©2019.





SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

Benediction:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus is the very revelation of God,
the Word made flesh, and the Light of the world:

Grant that Your people, strengthened by Your word and Table,
may go forth with joy into the world to love and serve the Lord,
remembering that our adoption, redemption, and inheritance in Him
are sure; for we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise.

Amen.

Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all
that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever!

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Stars cross the sky, wise men journey from pagan lands, earth receives its savior in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race. Now it is no longer, ‘dust you are and to dust you shall return,’ but ‘you are joined to heaven and into heaven shall you be taken up.’”
– Basil the Great

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Lectionary for next week: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

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Text the word **Epiclesis** to 22828 to sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

Text the word **Connect** to (916)347-5038 to join our text alert list.

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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