

An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
*Liturgy*  
December 3, 2023  
First Sunday of Advent (Hope)

GATHERING

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.

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

Text: Latin hymn, 12<sup>th</sup> century;  
transl., John M. Neale, 1851.  
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 15<sup>th</sup> century plainsong.  
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012.



I was glad when they said unto me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”  
*Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?*

**Hope in God;**

**for I shall yet praise Him, my help and my God.**

According to Your decree, we gather to give thanks  
and lift up the name of the LORD.

*O send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead us.*

*Let them bring us to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling.*

**Then we will go to the altar of God,**

**to God our exceeding joy;**

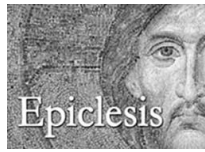
**and we will praise You, O God, our God.**

**We will watch expectantly for the LORD;**

**we wait in hope for the God of our salvation.**

**For the LORD will be our light.**

— from Psalms 43 and 122; and Micah 7



*Even So, Come*

All of creation, all of the earth,  
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord; Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint,  
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame; Jesus is coming soon.

*Chorus*

Like a bride waiting for her groom,  
We'll be a Church ready for You.  
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing:  
Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come.

There will be justice, all will be new,  
Your name forever, faithful and true; Jesus is coming soon.

*Chorus*

*Bridge*

So we wait, we wait for You. God, we wait; You're coming soon.

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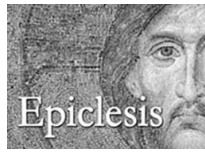
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

God of grace, ever faithful to Your promises: **The earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming, and looks forward with longing to His return at the end of time. As once He came in humility, so now may He come in glory. Prepare our hearts to receive Him, now and always, for He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.



Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1745. Hymn tune: HYFRYDOL; Rowland H. Prichard, 1830.  
Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2004.

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages  
in the words of this hymn of the ancient church:

You are God; we praise You.

*You are the Lord; we acclaim You.*

You are the Eternal Father; all creation worships You.

*To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praises you.

*The noble fellowship of prophets praises you.*

The white-robed army of martyrs praises you.

**Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims You;**

*Father of majesty unbounded,*

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

*and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.*

**You, Christ, are the King of glory,**

the eternal Son of the Father.

*When You became man to set us free*

*You did not shun the Virgin's womb.*

You overcame the sting of death,

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

**You are seated at God's right hand in glory.**

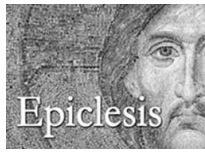
**We believe that you will come and be our judge.**

Come then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your  
own blood, and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

– from *Te Deum laudamus* (“Thee, O God, we praise”).

A hymn of the early church, fourth century.

Attributed to church fathers Ambrose and Augustine.



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock;  
You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!

**Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us Your salvation.**

[Silence]

**Come, and restore us, LORD God Almighty;  
make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

[Silent prayers of confession]

**Come, and restore us, LORD God Almighty;  
make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

– texts from Psalms 80:1-3, 19; 85:7

## *Send Out Your Light*

Send out Your light, Lord,  
Send out Your truth;  
Send them that they may guide us.  
Lord, may they bring us  
Into Your courts,  
To the heart of Your dwelling places.

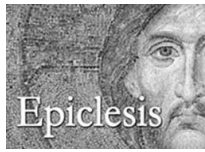
Send out Your light, Lord,  
Send out Your truth;  
Send them that they may guide us.  
Come, and restore us,  
Lord God of Hosts;  
Make Your face shine upon us,  
That we may be saved.



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Words based on Psalms 43:4, 84:1-2, and 80:19.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*If You kept a record of sins, O LORD, who could stand?  
But with You there is forgiveness;  
so that we can, with reverence, serve You.*



Put your hope in the LORD,  
for with the LORD is lovingkindness,  
and with Him is abundant redemption.  
He redeems His people from all their sins.  
How blessed are all those who wait for Him!

— Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8; Isaiah 30:18b

#### TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

#### *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Lo, He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favored sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of His train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.

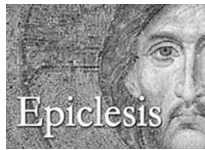
Every eye shall now behold Him,  
Robed in dreadful majesty!  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Now the Savior, long-expected,  
See in solemn pomp appear.  
All His saints, by man rejected,  
Now shall meet Him in the air.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the day of God appear.

Yes, amen! Let all adore Thee,  
High on Thine eternal throne.  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory;  
Claim the kingdom for Thine own.  
O, come quickly! O, come quickly! Everlasting God, come down!  
O, come quickly! O, come quickly! Everlasting God, come down!

Words: Charles Wesley and Martin Madan; based on John Cennick, 1752.

Hymn tune: REGENT SQUARE Henry T. Smart, 1867. Setting ©2011 Ellen Koehler.



## LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Reading: from Isaiah 56:1 and 64:1-9

### Lighting of the candle

Prepare the way of the Lord.

*We light this candle as a symbol  
of expectation and hope  
of the coming of our Savior, Jesus.*

**May the light sent from God  
shine in the darkness  
to show us the way to salvation.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel!**



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

## THE WORD

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

## 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.

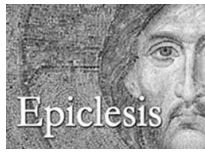
**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**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.**

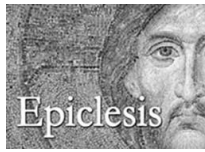


*Prepare a Place*

Prepare a place while you're waiting.  
Prepare a place for the coming One.  
Prepare a place and be patient  
While you wait for the coming One.  
Wait for the coming One.  
While you wait for the coming One.

Prepare your heart while you're waiting.  
Prepare your heart for the coming One.  
Set time aside and be quiet  
While you wait for the coming One.  
Wait for the coming One;  
While you wait for the coming One.

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SENDING FORTH  
The Life of the Body

*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending (verse 4)*

Yes, amen! Let all adore Thee, high on Thine eternal throne.  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory; claim the kingdom for Thine own.  
O come quickly! O come quickly! Everlasting God, come down!

Benediction:

Beloved, hear and take these words of blessing into your hearts,  
as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord –  
watching and waiting with eager anticipation the coming of Christ:  
God is faithful; by Him you were called into the fellowship of His  
Son, in whom we have grace and peace. He will also strengthen and  
keep you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our  
Lord Jesus Christ.

– based on 1 Cor. 1:3-9

**Thanks be to God!**  
**Come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!**

*A thought about worship...*– “The spirituality of Advent calls us to start our journey in expectation of the second coming of Christ. . . . The hope of a world restored under God proclaims that evil is not the final word. . . . The second coming says that the ultimate word in history is the triumph of God, the reign of God’s kingdom, the eternal and lasting rule of the good. Here is where our Advent meditation rests.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 50).

*Image credit.* p. 1: Mark Jennings, *Advent*, contemp.; p. 7: “Lord, Hear My Prayer and Let My Cry Come to You,” St. Albans Psalter, 12<sup>th</sup> C.

**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;  
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

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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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