

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent (Hope)

GATHERING

The Joy of the Lord

The joy of the Lord is my strength;
In You will I find my rest.
The joy of the Lord is my strength;
In You will I find my hope.
The joy of the Lord is my strength;
In You will I find my love.
The joy of the Lord is my strength;
In You will I find my peace.
In You will I find my rest.

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I was glad when they said unto me,

“Let us go into the house of the LORD!”

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

Jerusalem, built as a city that is firmly bound together.

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;

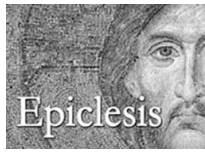
and we will praise You, O God, our God.

We will watch expectantly for the LORD;

we will wait for the God of our salvation.

The LORD will be our light.

— from Psalms 122 and 43; and Micah 7



You'll Come

I have decided, I have resolved,
To wait upon You, Lord.
My Rock and Redeemer,
Shield and Reward,
I'll wait upon You, Lord.

As surely as the sun will rise You'll come to us,
Certain as the dawn appears –

Chorus:

You'll come; let Your glory fall as You're revealed to us.
Emmanuel, free our captive, waiting hearts anew.
You'll come, You'll come.

We are not shaken, we are not moved;
We wait upon You, Lord.
Mighty Deliverer, Triumph and Truth,
We wait upon You, Lord.

As surely as the sun will rise You'll come to us,
Certain as Your word endures –

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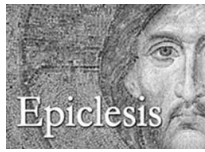
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

God of eternity, **with expectant hearts we Your people await
Christ's coming. As once He came in humility, so now may He
come in glory, that He may make all things perfect in Your
everlasting kingdom. For He is Lord for ever 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.

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Words: Charles Wesley, 1745. Hymn tune: HYFRYDOL; Rowland H. Prichard, 1830.

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.

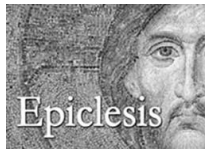
We believe that you will come and be our judge.

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

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 steadfast love,
and with Him is abundant redemption.*

He redeems His people from all their sins.

— Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8

[Silence]

Most merciful God, always with us, always coming:

**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.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

[Silent confessions]

Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.

**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
grant that we may walk in Your ways,
in hopeful expectation of His coming, to the glory of Your name.**

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
All my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
God, the well-spring of life.

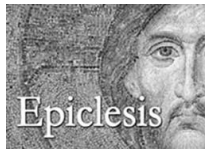
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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Who is like You, O LORD God?

You pardon sin and forgive the transgressions of your inheritance.

You do not stay angry forever, but delight to show mercy.



In Your compassion for us, You cast our sins into the depths of the sea
as You promised to our fathers from days of old.
How blessed are all those who wait for Him!

— from Micah 7:18-20 and Isaiah 30:18

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise, gratitude, and hope

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.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cause Thy light on us to rise;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

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

O come, true prophet of the Lord, and turn the key to heaven's door;
Be Thou our comforter and guide, and lead us to the Father's side.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall by His word our darkness dispel.

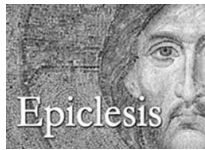
O come, our great High Priest, and intercede
Thy sacrifice, our only plea.
The judgment we no longer fear;
Thy precious blood has brought us near.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell.

O come, Thou King of nations bring an end to all our suffering;
Bid every pain and sorrow cease,
And reign now as our Prince of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come again with us to dwell.

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Bob Kauflin, John Mason Neale, Steve Cook.



LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

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.*

**O Wisdom, proceeding from
the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from eternity to eternity
and disposing all things
with strength and sweetness:
Come, teach us the way of knowledge.**

Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.



THE WORD

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

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.

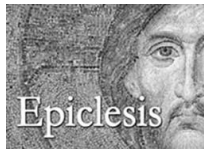
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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.**



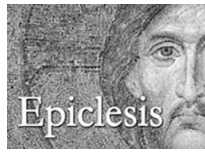
Prepare Him Room

Let every heart, let every heart,
Let every heart prepare Him room.

We're making room, we're making room.

All creation groans in labor,
Waiting for our humble Savior.
Joyful hope for Jesus' coming
In our hearts is overflowing.

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Gregory Boudreaux, Lizzy Boudreaux.



SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (reprise)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel;
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again with us to dwell.

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:
May the God of hope continually fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy
Spirit.

– from Romans 15:13

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

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

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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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