

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
Lessons and Carols
December 7, 2025

PRELUDE

Advent songs and hymns

WELCOME

A word about tonight's service

INVOCATION

Lord God Almighty,

King eternal and Giver of life everlasting:

**You are most worthy at all times to receive glory, and honor,
and praise, and blessing. We thank you now for sending your
Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts wait in hope,
and to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
be honor and dominion, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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

*May the Word sent from God through the prophets
lead us to the way of salvation.*

Come, O come, Emmanuel!

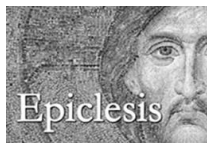
O Key of David and Scepter of Israel,

you open and no one shuts;

you shut and no one opens:

**Come and release from prison those who sit
in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



READERS' THEATER

Angel Training, Overheard

– Jay Dudley, Delilah Dudley



FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1-6, 10-11

The prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.

The Lord wants to find in you a path by which He can enter your souls and make His journey. Prepare for him a path...

– Origen

Song: *Prepare Him Room*

The Vigil Project

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 2:2-5

The prophet foretells the hope that all nations will someday share.

What about hope? Will that be there [in heaven]? Hope will not continue when the thing hoped for is there. Certainly hope is very necessary for us in our exile. It is what consoles us on the journey. ... So the hope also which we have here is part and parcel of the justice of our exile and our journey.

– Augustine

Hymn: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

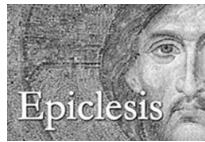
THIRD LESSON Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord promises that the king will come to Israel in peace.

There was only one remedy in the secret of the divine plan that could help the fallen. . . . David's Lord was made David's Son, and from the fruit of the promised branch He sprang. ...

– Leo the Great

Carol: *Long Ago, Prophets Knew*



FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

The Lord promises to send his people a righteous King.

Scripture also expresses the Son's incarnation beautifully: "from a bud you have gone up," for like a plant of the earth he was to be conceived in the womb of a virgin. And like a fragrant flower sent forth from the maternal bosom in the splendor of the dawn, he was to go up for the redemption of the whole world. . . .

– Ambrose

Carol: *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

FIFTH LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-17

We joyously anticipate the day God dwells in the midst of His people.

The passage clearly commands Jerusalem to rejoice exceedingly ... as its trespasses are wiped out, evidently through Christ. The spiritual and holy Zion—that is, the church, the holy multitude of the believers—is justified in Christ and only in him. . . . Thanks to him, we do not see evil anymore, for we have been delivered from the powers of evil.

– Cyril of Alexandria

Hymn: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

SIXTH LESSON Isaiah 35:1-6, 8-10

The prophet foretells the coming of the Messiah.

This divine arrangement is giving us hints of a great and significant mystery. Christ, you see, was going to come in the flesh, not anyone at all, not an angel, not an ambassador; but "he himself will come and save you." ... He was going to be born in mortal flesh, to be a tiny infant, to be laid in a manger, ... and finally even to be done to death.

– Augustine

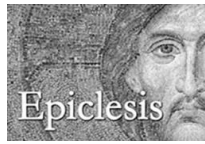
Hymn: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel greets the Virgin Mary.

The captain of the angelic hosts was sent by God Almighty to the pure Virgin to announce the good tidings of a strange and secret wonder: that God as man would be born a child of her without seed, fashioning again the whole human race! Proclaim, people, the good tidings of the re-creation of the world!.

– Anonymous



(Solo)

Carol: *Gabriel's Message*

Basque Carol

(All)

Hymn: *Mary's Song (The Magnificat)*

John Michael Talbot

EIGHTH LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Messiah announces the favorable year of the Lord.

What is the "favorable year"? Favorable is the year in which he revealed his glory through the divine miracle attesting the message. We received the time for salvation gladly ... the day of reckoning is none other than the time of his dwelling among us in which the reckoning has been given by him to those believing in him through the promise in hope.... The time of reckoning, then, is in this manner, when Christ illuminated the world.

– Cyril of Alexandria

Hymn: *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

SENDING FORTH

Prayer

Song: *Come, Emmanuel*

Words and Music: Twila Paris

Benediction:

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who by his incarnation gathered all things into one – things heavenly and things earthly – fill your hearts with joyful expectation as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Amen. Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

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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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