

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

January 4, 2026 (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,

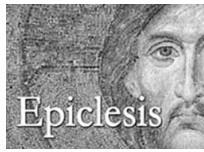
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

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!





Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world,
You stepped out into darkness,
Opened my eyes let me see:
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus:

So here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted;
Glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came
To the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

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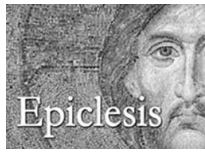
PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

**We believe that the Son of God,
the second person of the Trinity,
being truly and eternally God,
of one substance and equal with the Father,
did, when the fullness of time had come,
take upon Himself human nature,
with all its essential properties and common frailties,
yet without sin.**

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
in the womb of the virgin Mary,
and of her substance.

*In this way, two whole natures,
the divine and the human,
perfect and distinct,
were inseparably joined together in one person
without being changed, mixed, or confused.*

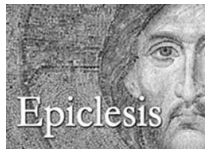
**This person is truly God and truly man,
yet one Christ,
the only mediator between God and man.**

In His human nature,
united to the divine nature,
the Lord Jesus was set apart
and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure,
having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

*In Him the Father was pleased to have all fullness dwell,
so that being holy, blameless, and undefiled,
full of grace and truth,
He might be completely equipped
to fulfill the office of a mediator and guarantor.*

**He did not take this office to Himself
but was called to it by His Father,
who put all power and judgment into His hand
and commanded Him to execute it.**

– from Westminster Confession (MESV),
Chap. VIII, Sec. 2-3



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.

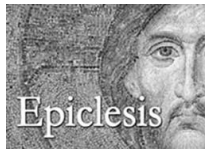
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the
inheritance of the saints in Light.

*For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred
us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have
redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

– Colossians 1:12-14

Thanks be to God!



Passing of the Peace

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 ornery 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 (pub. 1934, *Songs of the Hill-Folk.*)
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012.

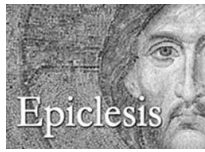
Fairest Lord Jesus

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.





THE WORD

John 1:1-18

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.

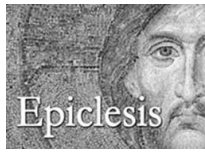
And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen.



Joy Has Dawned

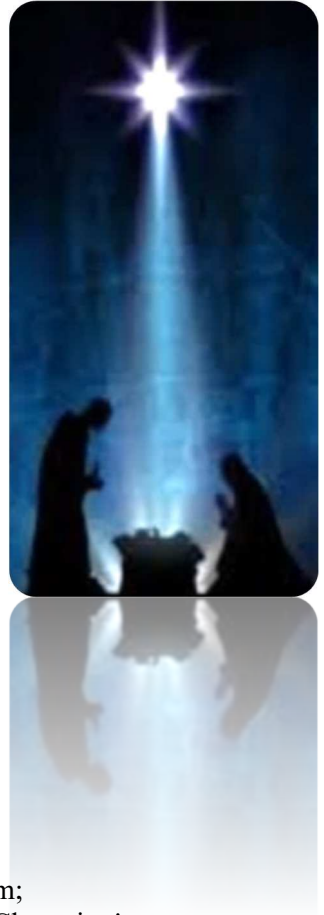
Joy has dawned upon the world,
Promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glory;
But a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels;
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness;
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vulnerable and helpless.

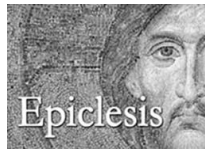
Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant land
Prophesy the story.
Gold, a King is born today;
Incense, God is with us;
Myrrh, His death will make a way,
By His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heav'n, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

CCLI Song #4408246 ©2004 Thankyou Music. Stuart Townend, Keith Getty.



SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Angels From the Realms of Glory

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Traditional French carol tune. Words: James Montgomery, 1816.

Benediction:

O God, who in Jesus Christ
called us out of darkness into marvelous light:
Enable us always to declare Your wonderful deeds,
thank You for your steadfast love,
and praise You with heart, soul, mind, and strength,
now and forever.

Blessed are You, God of light!
Shine in our lives with the light of Christ,
that we might give You praise through Him
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit
now and forever. Amen.
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: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113

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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