



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

November 28, 2010 (First Sunday of Advent)

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, *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, 1710.

Verse transl., John M. Neale. Music: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

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 like 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

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

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



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.

Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland H. Prichard; hymn tune: Hyfrydol



I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty.
From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
And my spirit exults in God my Savior
For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness
And His name will be forever exalted
For the mighty God has done great things for me
And His mercy will reach from age to age

And holy holy holy is His name
(repeat)

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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. 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. Amen.

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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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.

– from Micah 7:18-20



Mosaic Map of 6th Century Jerusalem

TIME OF OFFERING
Dwell



Dwell in the midst of us; come and dwell in this place.
Dwell in the midst of us; come and have Your way.

Dwell in the midst of us; wipe all the tears from our faces.
Dwell in the midst of us; You can have Your way

Not our will but Yours be done; Come and change us.
Not our will but Yours be done; Come sustain us.

You can have Your way, oh Lord; You can have Your way.
You can have Your way, oh Lord; You can have Your way

CCLI Song No. 4085652; ©2003 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing; Casey Corum.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Lighting of the candle

Response:

**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.**

THE WORD

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ





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 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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People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way;
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, ©1931. Hymn tune: *Besançon*.



A note about The Season of Light...

The Season of Light begins with the four-week period of Advent, when the Church joyfully remembers the coming of Christ and eagerly looks forward to His coming again. Beginning with the Sunday nearest November 30, the season includes the four Sundays before Christmas. You'll notice that one of the dominant colors used in worship during this time of year is purple, which is meant to be a reminder of the royalty of Christ and the dignity of the season. The color also harkens to an early practice when, like Lent, Advent was considered a time of penitence.



The tau cross, made from the Greek letter "T", is the simplest of all crosses. It is often used as the cross of prophecy, or Old Testament cross, because it is the traditional sign that Israelites made with lamb's blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of Passover. A tau cross is often pictured as the pole on which Moses lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness.

Season: Advent

A thought about worship...

“Worship connects me with the past, gives meaning to the present, and inspires hope for the future as my soul and spirit become blended again into the drama of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.” (Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God’s Mighty Deeds of Salvation* [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992], 23).

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community meets on 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.