



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 1, 2013



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 invocation and of praise

Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal,
You are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing.

**We praise You now for sending Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,
for whom our hearts wait, and to whom,
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
be honor and dominion, now and forever. Amen.**

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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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.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim 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.

Leader:

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.





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.

Test: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland H. Prichard; hymn tune: HYFRYDOL

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to 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. 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.



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.

Music from the Taizé community ©1982 Les Presses de Taizé (France)

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

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

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.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

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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Christine Dente and Michael W. Smith.



LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Lighting of the candle



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

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

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!

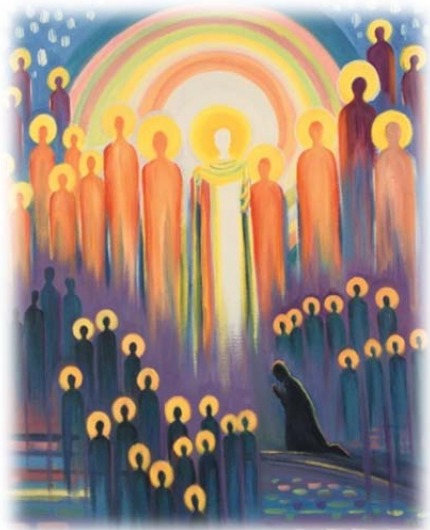
And also with you!

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.





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**

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!

Text: Charles Wesley and Martin Madan; based on John Cennick; Music: Henry T. Smart.
Hymn Tune: REGENT SQUARE. Setting ©2011 Ellen Koehler.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (reprise)

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.

Test: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland H. Prichard; hymn tune: HYFRYDOL

Benediction:

Beloved, hear and heed these words of blessing as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord:

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

– Romans 15:13

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
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).

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

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
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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