



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 2, 2012



GATHERING

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him,
On those who hope for His lovingkindness.

Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

Hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is lovingkindness,
and with Him is abundant redemption.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

And it will be said in that day,

“Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited!

Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”

– from Psalms 33 and 130; Isaiah 25:9

Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal,

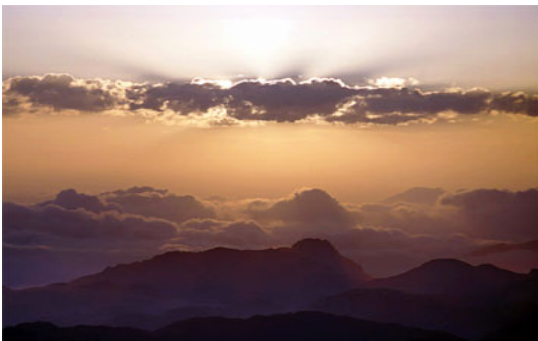
You are worthy at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing.

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.





Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord;
We will wait upon the Lord, We will wait upon the Lord.
(Repeat)

Our God, You reign forever;
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God;
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak,
You comfort those in need,
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of invocation and of praise

**O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Expectation and Savior of the nations:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

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, 12th century; transl., John M. Neale.
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 15th century plainsong.



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:

Psalm 25

Refrain (sung):

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in You I put my trust.

(Spoken)

Do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for You be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Refrain

Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.
Lead me in Your truth, and teach me, for You are the God of my
salvation; for You I wait all day long.

Refrain



Be mindful of Your mercy, O LORD, and of Your steadfast love,
For they have been from of old.
*Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
According to Your steadfast love remember me,
For Your goodness' sake, O LORD!*

Refrain

[Silent confessions]

Refrain (sung):
To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in You I put my trust.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
*He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.*
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
For those who keep His covenant and His decrees. – Psalm 25:8-10
How blessed are all those who wait for Him! – Isaiah 30:18

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

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.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

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.

May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way to salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel!



THE WORD

Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36



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**

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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Words and music by Christine Dente and Michael W. Smith.



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 hope as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord:

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, and may He so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

– from 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

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: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

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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