



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

December 5, 2010 (Second Sunday of Advent)

## GATHERING

### Call to Worship

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
such a light as shows a feast;  
such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
such a joy as none can move;  
such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633), from his poem "The Call"

Music: Ralph Vaughn Williams, "The Call," *Five Mystical Songs* (1911)



Messiah, He Qi, contemporary

We gather in preparation

**for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

We gather in expectation

**for joy is about to explode in our midst.**

We gather in celebration

**for we are those people who have said  
yes to the manger, yes to love enfleshed,  
yes to the One incarnate for the redemption of the world,  
yes to the wholeness of God.**

With preparation and in expectation, let us worship the Lord!



*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

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

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

*Long Ago, Prophets Knew*

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,  
Come to make all things new,  
Bear his people's burden, freely love and pardon.

*Chorus (verses 1-3):*

Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!  
When He comes, when He comes, who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan;  
He will come, as a man, born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

*Chorus*

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid  
Till the time expected, nurtured and protected.



*Chorus*

Journey ends! Where afar Bethl'hem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar,  
Unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry!

*Chorus (verse 4):*

Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes, we will make him welcome!

Public domain. Tune: Personent hodie, 1582, arr. Gustav Holst. Words: Fred Pratt Green

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Christ Jesus,  
    although He existed in the form of God,  
    did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,  
    but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant,  
    being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form  
    He humbled Himself  
    and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.  
For this reason God also highly exalted Him  
    and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,  
    so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow,  
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
    and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
    to the glory of God the Father.

—from Philippians 2:5-11



### *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens every load.

Words: 15<sup>th</sup>-century carol, *Es is ein Ros entsprungen*; verses 1-2 transl. from the German by Theodore Baker, 1894; verse 3 transl. by Harriet Krauth, 1875. Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599; harmony, Michael Praetorius, 1609.

### PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

“Behold, He is coming,” promises the Lord, “the One you seek, the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight.” But who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. He will purify and refine His people, as gold and silver are purified, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.

Malachi 3:1-3

– from

### *The Jesus Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
Have mercy on me, a sinner.  
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison, Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.

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## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the promise of the Lord: He will purify and refine His people, as gold and silver are purified, so that we may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness. Then their offerings shall be pleasing to Him. Thanks be to God for His lavish grace!

– from Malachi 3:3-4

### *Jesus, I am Resting*

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art.  
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

#### *Verse 2:*

Oh, how great Thy loving kindness, vaster, broader than the sea.  
Oh, how marvelous Thy goodness lavished all on me.  
Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved, know what wealth of grace is Thine,  
Know Thy certainty of promise and have made it mine.

CCLI Song # 2697066; ©1998 New Spring. Words, Jean Sophia Pigott; Music, David Hampton

## TIME OF OFFERING

In the psalms of David and the words of the prophets, your promise is spoken, Eternal God, and takes flesh at last in the womb of the virgin. May Emmanuel find welcome anew in our hearts and take flesh in our lives. In gratitude and worshipful awe, we bring Your tithes and our offerings, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Nativité à la mandorle jaune,  
Macha Chmakoff , contemporary

*Come Emmanuel*





Come and speak to us, come and renew us;  
Come and live through us, Emmanuel.  
Grace to implore us, ever before us;  
Come and restore us, Emmanuel.

Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel;  
Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel.

Once mercy found us, still You astound us;  
Hold and surround us, Emmanuel.  
Living inside us, faithful to guide us;  
Cover and hide us, Emmanuel.

Come Emmanuel, come Emmanuel;  
Come Emmanuel, come –



Love that begins us, pardons and wins us;  
Come and reign in us, Emmanuel.  
Come and speak to us, fill and renew us;  
Come and live through us, Emmanuel.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

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## LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

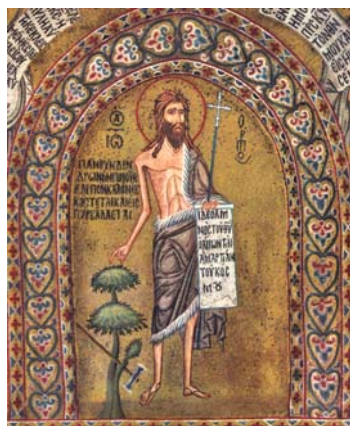
Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Lighting of the candle

Response:

**O Root of Jesse, who stands for an ensign of the people,  
before whom kings shall keep silence  
and to whom all nations shall pray:  
Come and deliver us, do not delay.**

THE WORD



Psalm 72:1-7. 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

## THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

*The Lord's Prayer* (spoken)

John the Baptist Announcing the Messiah, mid  
12<sup>th</sup> Century

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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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *People, Look East* (verse 2)

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

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

#### Benediction:

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who came and lavished us with grace and truth, also fill your hearts with grace, and truth, and love, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!**

#### *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.

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.