



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 4, 2011



GATHERING

Call to worship

Ron Richardson

Comfort Ye

Handel,
The Messiah

The mighty God summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

Our God comes and will not be silent.

God calls, and we respond to His love.

Behold, the Sovereign Lord comes with power;
He rules with a mighty arm. His reward is with Him,
and His recompense before Him.

**The heavens declare God's righteousness,
and we proclaim His glories!**

— based on Psalm 50:1-3



Preaching of John the Baptist, 1508



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

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid
Till the time expected, nurtured and protected.
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!
When He comes, when He comes, who will make him welcome?

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

INVOCATION

Prayers of invocation and of praise

O Wisdom proceeding from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from eternity to eternity and ordering all things with
strength and sweetness:

Come, teach us the way of knowledge.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go.

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

Text: Latin hymn, *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, 1710.

Verse transl., Henry S. Coffin. Music: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
*God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.*

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

*He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried.*

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
*He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.*

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father, and with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Nicene Creed



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,
and grant us your salvation.

*Listen to what the Lord our God says: He promises peace to his people, to
His faithful, to those who turn to Him in their hearts.*

– Psalm 85:7-8,

Trusting in His promise, let us confess our sins to God.

[Silent confessions]

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

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear Him,
that His glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good; righteousness will go before Him and
will make a path for His steps.
In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.
Thanks be to God!

– based on Psalm 85:9-13

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.



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. (repeat)

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 40:1-11

Lighting of the candle



Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

We light this candle as a symbol of proclamation and in the love that Jesus, our Savior, has for us.

May the word sent from God through the prophets lead us to the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Leader: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.



THE WORD

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8



St. John the Baptist,
Lippo Memmi, 1325

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.

Fullness of Grace

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty,
This is the wonder of Jesus.
Laying aside His power and glory,
Humbly He entered our world.
Chose the path of meanest worth;
Scandal of a virgin birth.
Born in a stable, cold and rejected;
Here lies the hope of the world.



Fullness of grace, the love of the Father
Shown in the face of Jesus.
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity,
Walking the Calvary road.
Christ the holy innocent
Took our sin and punishment.
Fullness of God, despised and rejected;
Crushed for the sins of the world.

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for,
Promise of God in Jesus.
Through His obedience we are forgiven,
Op'ning the floodgates of heav'n.
All our hopes and dreams we bring
Gladly as an offering.
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable:
God's gift in love to the world.

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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

Come Thou, Almighty King

To Thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be,
Hence evermore;
Thy sov'reign majesty may we in glory see.
And to eternity love and adore.

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Benediction:

God is faithful; by Him you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (from 1 Cor. 1:8,9)

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!

A thought about worship...—“Advent is the time when God breaks in on us with new surprises and touches us with a renewing and restoring power.... We should use the Advent season as a period to identify the matters from which we need to be redeemed. Identify whatever it is that seems to be holding you in its power.... Commit it to the One who comes to set the prisoners free, turn it over to Christ in prayer, and ask the one who has come into your life to take this problem up into Himself.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 38, 51).

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:46b-55;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

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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