



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 12, 2010 (Third Sunday of Advent)

GATHERING

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 Cantionum Catholicarum*, 1710.

Verse 3 transl, Henry S. Coffin. Music: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore



The only Begotten of the Father and the word of God, 1540-1550, Cathedral of the Sleeper, Kremlin, Moscow

**Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God:**

He made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

He keeps faith forever.

He executes justice for the oppressed, He gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers;

He upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the LORD!

Psalm 146:5-10

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

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise



You'll Come

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

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 –

Chorus

Bridge:

Chains be broken, lives be healed;
Eyes be opened, Christ is revealed.

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(Chorus text altered, C. Alford and E. Koehler) CCLI License # 3097801

PROFESSION OF FAITH



God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world, and who is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, born a descendant of David according to the flesh; born of a woman, born under the Law; in the likeness of sinful flesh, to be an offering for our sin; so that He might redeem us, that we might receive adoption as His children.

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 Hebrews 1:1-3; Romans 1:3,8:3-4; Galatians 4:3-4, Philipians 2:9-11

Gaudete (Rejoice!)

Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!
Rejoice, rejoice the Christ is born of Mary;
Jesus Christ the Son of God is born, rejoice!

Cantor:

Time of Grace has come we've prayed, Time of Grace is on us;
Let us sing our songs of joy, songs of our salvation.

God made man is born today, born while nature wonders;
All is new by Christ the King, King of all the ages.

Darkness that has bound the soul, shattered with this dawning;
Where the light is shining bright salvation is calling.

Therefore let us all rejoice! Purity surrounds us.
Jesus Christ is born today, heaven's voice resounding.

Gaudete (English Translation) arr. ©Tony Matthews 2005 www.tonymatthews.org



O promised Christ, we confess that we are a sinful people;
Our pardon depends on your coming.
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing God's will
is that You should come and help us do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh, we wait with joyful expectation
for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Public domain. Words: Philip Brooks, 1867; Music: Lewis Redner, 1868.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God. “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned.”

– Isaiah 40:1-2

READING: Luke 1:46b-55





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)

CCLI Song No. 14497; ©1980 Birdwing Music; John Michael Talbot

TIME OF OFFERING

Come Emmanuel

©2003 Ariose Music. Twila Paris.

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.



LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Lighting of the candle

We light this candle as a symbol of joy. May the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us rejoice in our hope of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Response:

**O Key of David and Scepter of Israel,
who opens and no one shuts, who shuts and no one opens:
Come and bring forth from prison the captives who
sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

THE WORD

Matthew 11:2-11

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord's Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory, now and forever,
Amen, amen, 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.

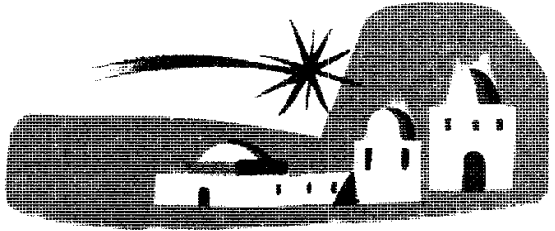
Prepare your heart while you're waiting.
Prepare your heart for the coming One.
Set time aside and be quiet
While you wait for the coming One.
Wait for the coming One. While you wait for the coming One.

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

People, Look East (verse 3)



Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

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

Benediction:

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who came with grace and truth,
also fill your hearts with grace, and truth, and joy,
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.

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).

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.



Cross (Natal)

This cross is shaped like a star, reminding us of the story of Jesus' birth and foretelling the purpose for which he was born.

Season: Advent, Epiphany