



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

December 15, 2013



## GATHERING

Leader: We are gathered in joyful expectation to praise and worship  
the LORD, Emmanuel, the Coming One.

**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





*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

Words: Henry J. van Dyke, 1907. Music: HYMN TO JOY, from the Ninth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven, adapted by Edward Hodges, 1824.

*Jubilate Deo*

Jubilate Deo, jubilate Deo, Alleluia!  
(Rejoice in the Lord! Alleluia!)

*Songs and Prayers from Taizé*; ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé.

INVOCATION

Prayers of invocation and of praise

God of all hope and joy,

**Open our hearts in welcome, that Your Son, Jesus Christ, at His coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

*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!

Latin hymn, 12<sup>th</sup>-c., transl. John M. Neale. Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 15<sup>th</sup>-c. plainsong.



## 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, Philippians 2:9-11

*Gaudete (Rejoice!)*

Antiphon:

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus  
Ex Maria virgine, Gaudete!

(Translation: Rejoice, rejoice the Christ is born of Mary; 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](http://www.tonymatthews.org)



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,  
on those who hope in His steadfast love.

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

For our hearts rejoice in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

*Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,  
Even as we hope in You.*

– Psalm 33:18, 20-22

[Silent confessions]

**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

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

*Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; He has turned away your enemies.

*The King of Israel, the LORD your God, is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will renew you in his love; He will exult over you with loud singing.*

– from Zephaniah 3:14-17

## TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

A moment for reflection

### *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.

Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, and Thy beauty fills my soul.

For by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.

#### *Chorus:*

Jesus, I am resting, resting

In the joy of what Thou art.

I am finding out the greatness

Of Thy loving heart.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art.

And Thy love so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;

Satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its ev'ry need,

Compasseth me 'round with blessings, this is love indeed.

Ever lift Thy face upon me as I work and wait for Thee;

Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee.

Brightness of the Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face,

Keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with Thy grace.

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



## 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.*

Response:

O Dayspring, Splendor of Eternal Light and Sun of Righteousness:

**Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.**

## THE WORD

Luke 1:46b-55

Solo:

*Magnificat*

Words and Music: Keith Getty,  
Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend  
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## 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 us 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**

*Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,  
Thou fount of life, Thou light of men;  
From the best bliss that earth imparts  
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood,  
Thou savest those that on Thee call;  
To them that seek Thee Thou art good,  
To them that find Thee all in all.

We taste Thee, O Thou living bread,  
And long to feast upon Thee still;  
We drink of Thee, the fountainhead,  
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,  
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;  
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,  
Blest when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,  
Make all our moments calm and bright;  
Chase the dark night of sin away,  
Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.

Words: Bernard of Clairveaux; tr. Ray Palmer. Music: Claude L. Bass ©1960 Broadman Press  
Verse 4 harmonization: Ellen Koehler, 2010



## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (reprise)*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

van Dyke, Beethoven.

#### Benediction:

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who came once in humility and will come again in triumph and glory, fill your hearts with joyful expectation 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 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 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

[www.Epiclesis.org](http://www.Epiclesis.org) | Info line: (916)572-9113

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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