



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 11, 2011



GATHERING

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!



Magnificat, Macha Chmakoff



How Great Our Joy/Psalm 126

This Gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Refrain (sung)

How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! (repeat)

Spoken: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like
those who dream. Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our
tongues with shouts of joy.

Refrain

Spoken: Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great
things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad!

(sung)

This Gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! (repeat)

Public domain. Traditional German carol; arr. by Hugo Jungst
Setting with Psalm 126: Ellen Koehler ©2011

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 Dayspring, Splendor of Eternal Light and Sun of Righteousness:
**Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.**

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

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 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.

In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will,
according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Christ, to be put
into effect when the times reach their fulfillment –
when He will unify and consummate all things in Christ,
things in the heavens and things on the earth.

—from Hebrews 1:1-3; Romans 8:3-4; Galatians 4:3-4, Ephesians 1:8-10



Gaudete (Rejoice!)

Antiphon:

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

Translation: 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

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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.

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.

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland H. Prichard; hymn tune: HYFRYDOL



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the word of the Lord from Psalm 40:

The Lord is your Help and Deliverer. He does not withhold His mercies and compassion, but is pleased to save. His covenant love and truth will continually preserve you.

Let all who seek Him rejoice and be glad in Him;

Let all who love His salvation say continually,

“The Lord be magnified!”

TIME OF OFFERING

Prayers of thanksgiving, praise and devotion

With grateful hearts, in joyful worship, we present our tithes and the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

Jesus Came, the Heav'ns Adoring

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for man's redemption, lowly came on earth to die.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care;
Jesus comes again in answer to an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of sins forgiven;
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, leading souls redeemed to Heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Now the gate of death is riv'n.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us, glads our hearts, and dries our tears.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Cheering e'en our failing years.

Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, when the heav'ns shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory; let us then our homage pay.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Till the dawn of endless day.

Words: Godfrey Thring. Music: Henry T. Smart. Hymn Tune: REGENT SQUARE



LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Lighting of the candle

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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!

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



THE WORD

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28



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.

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

How Great Our Joy

This Gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

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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...—“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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 or Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

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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