



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 14, 2014



GATHERING

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

Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done glorious things;

Let this be known in all the earth.

*Shout aloud, and sing for joy, O people of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

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.*

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!

We have trusted in Your lovingkindness;

Our hearts shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Leader: Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;

And let those who love Your salvation say continually:

“The LORD be magnified!”

— Isaiah 12:5-6; Psalms 126:1-3, 13:5, 40:16

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!





Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed;
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

Bridge:

Let us rejoice! (I will rejoice!) Rejoice in Him! (I will rejoice!)
Let us rejoice! (I will rejoice!) I will rejoice, I will rejoice!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

We will rejoice! (Rejoice in Him!) We will rejoice! (Rejoice in Him!)
We will rejoice! (Rejoice in Him!)
We will rejoice, we will rejoice; We will rejoice.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.

Setting and Bridge: Ellen Koehler ©2014. All rights reserved. Words: Henry J. van Dyke, 1907.
Music: HYMN TO JOY, from the Ninth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven, adapted by Edward
Hodges, 1824.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and of praise

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, 12th century; transl., John M. Neale.
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 15th century 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



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 heart rejoices 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

The word of the Lord, His faithful and true promise:

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD.

For the LORD will comfort His people; joy and gladness will be found in them, thanksgiving and the voice of song. And His justice will be a light to the peoples: His salvation will be forever, and His deliverance will never be ended.

— from Isaiah 51:1-6

Thanks be to God! And may the LORD be magnified forever!

For the Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is His name. His mercy is for those who fear Him, from generation to generation.

— from Luke 1:46-50

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

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.

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.

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.

CCLI Song #2697066; ©1998 New Spring; Words by Jean Sophia Pigott; Music by David Hampton. CCLI License # 3097801



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

Psalms 126

John 1:6-8, 19-28

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24



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 (sung)

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.

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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



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Jesus, I am Resting (verse 4)

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.

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

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 at all times, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and preserve you complete and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

— based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Thanks be to God!

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

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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