



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 16, 2012



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.*

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous;

And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!

For praise from the upright is beautiful.

We have trusted in Your lovingkindness;

Our hearts shall rejoice in Your salvation.

We will sing to the LORD,

Because He has dealt bountifully with us.

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 32:11, 33:1, 13:5-6, 40:16





Behold the Lord

Great and marvelous are Your works, oh Lord Almighty.
True and righteous are all Your ways, King of the ages.
Who will not fear You, oh Lord,
And glorify Your Name?

Chorus

Behold the Lord, God is my salvation;
In Him I trust, and will not be afraid.
And I will give thanks, and sing among the nations forever;
Behold the Lord; behold the Lord; behold the Lord.

So rejoice and be glad in this: our God is with us;
Messiah, Emmanuel, Lion of Judah.
Lift up your voice and declare the glory of our King.

Bridge

Join the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb,
The thunderous praises of one new man;
The Kingdom of the Messiah is at hand.

CCLI Song #5763368 ©2010 Integrity Worship Music | Paintbrush Music | Lynn DeShazo Music. Paul Wilbur, Lynn DeShazo, Gary Sadler. CCLI License # 3097801.

INVOCATION

Prayers of invocation 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!

Latin hymn, 12th-C., transl. John M. Neale. Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 15th-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



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

How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

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



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Thus says the LORD God, “In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength.”

How blessed are all those who wait for Him!

**Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.
For the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.**

Therefore with joy we draw water from the wells of salvation.

Thanks be to the LORD! His name is exalted!

– from Isaiah 30:15,18; 12:2-4

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.
Alleuia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

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 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
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2011 Ellen Koehler.



LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Lighting of the candle

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!



THE WORD

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Philippians 4:4-7

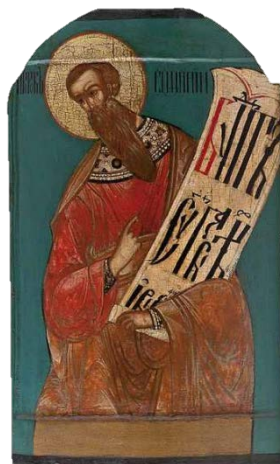
THE TABLE

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**



The Prophet Zephaniah



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.

Chorus

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.

Chorus

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.

Chorus

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



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Behold the Lord (reprise)

Behold the Lord, God is my salvation;
In Him I trust, and will not be afraid.
And I will give thanks, and sing among the nations forever;
Behold the Lord; behold the Lord; behold the Lord.

CCLI Song #5763368 ©2010 Integrity Worship Music | Paintbrush Music | Lynn DeShazo
Music. Paul Wilbur, Lynn DeShazo, Gary Sadler

Benediction:

Beloved, rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

– Philippians 4:4-7

Amen! 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: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-55

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.

©2011 E.K.