



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

December 22, 2013



## GATHERING

Show us Your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,  
*and grant us Your salvation.*

Listen to what the LORD our God says:

*He promises peace to His people, who are His beloved saints.*

The LORD will indeed give what is good.

**Righteousness will go before Him  
and shall make His footsteps our pathway.**

May the LORD make His holy face to shine upon us.

**May we see God's face and so know peace.**

With preparation and in expectation, let us worship Him!

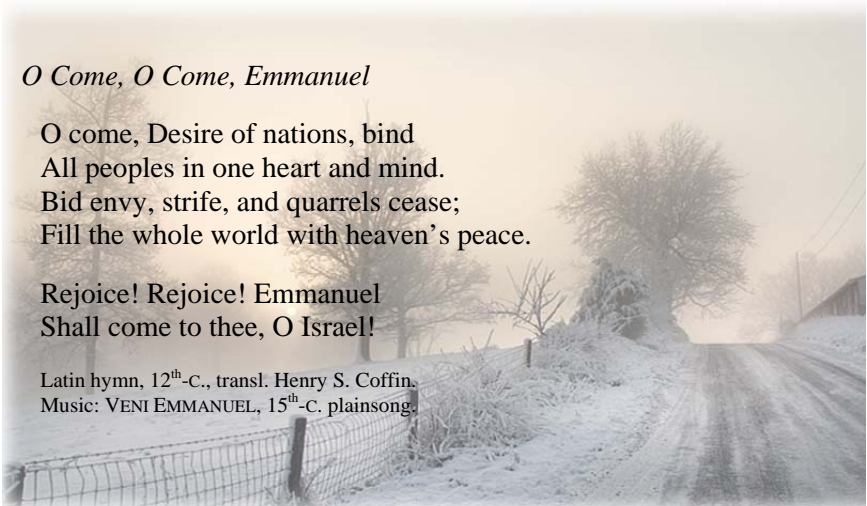
– from Psalm 85:7-13

## *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

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

Latin hymn, 12<sup>th</sup>-C., transl. Henry S. Coffin.  
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 15<sup>th</sup>-C. plainsong.





## INVOCATION

Prayers of invocation and of praise

Sung:

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

God of eternity,

with expectant hearts we Your people await Christ's coming.

**As once He came in humility, so now may He come in glory,  
that He, the Prince of Peace, may make all things perfect in  
Your everlasting kingdom. For He is Lord for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### *Long Ago, Prophets Knew*

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,

Come to make all things new, bear his people's burden,

Freely love and pardon.

Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!

When He comes, when He comes, who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan;

He will come, as a man, born himself of woman,

God divinely human.

Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!

When He comes, when He comes, who will make him welcome?

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.

In her womb, God is laid

Till the time expected, nurtured and protected.

Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!

When He comes, when He comes, who will make him welcome?

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## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us speak together the words of Paul  
as he declared the Advent of the Prince of Peace:

**We are set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised  
beforehand through His prophets in the holy scriptures –  
The gospel concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who was descended from David according to the flesh,  
and was declared to be the Son of God with power  
according to the Spirit of holiness,  
by the resurrection from the dead.**

**In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through  
Him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth  
or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.  
For He Himself is our peace.**

To all God's beloved, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

– Romans 1:1-7; Colossians 1:19-20; Ephesians 2:14

### *Good Christians All, Rejoice*

Good Christians all, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice.  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Public domain. German melody: IN DULCI JUBILO. Latin carol, tr. by John M. Neale



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock;  
You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!  
*Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us Your salvation.*

**Come, and restore us, LORD God Almighty;  
make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

– Psalm 80:1, 19; 85:7

[Silent confessions]

**Come, and restore us, LORD God Almighty;  
make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

### *Blest are the Pure in Heart*

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;  
The secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,  
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul He doth Himself impart;  
And for His cradle and His throne, chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:  
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836). Public domain.

Music: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for He has looked favorably on His people, and redeemed them.



*God has raised up a mighty Savior from the house of David. He has shown the mercy promised to our fathers, and remembered His holy covenant.*

In the tender compassion of our God, the Dayspring from on high has come to us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**In Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

– from Luke 1:68-79

#### TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

#### *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 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 FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Lighting of the candle



*We light this candle as a symbol of peace.*

May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, purify us, that we may be ready for the coming of Jesus, our hope, joy and peace.

Response:

O King and Desire of the nations,

Cornerstone that binds them into one:

**Come, and deliver us whom You formed  
out of the dust of the earth to be a people for Yourself.**

## THE WORD

Matthew 1:18-25

## 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 Vision of St. Joseph  
James Tissot, c. 1880



*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**

*Fullness of Grace*

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty,  
This is the wonder of Jesus.  
Laying aside His power and glory,  
Humbly He entered our world.  
Chose the path of meanest worth;  
Scandal of a virgin birth.  
Born in a stable, cold and rejected;  
Here lies the hope of the world.

Fullness of grace, the love of the Father  
Shown in the face of Jesus.  
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity,  
Walking the Calvary road.  
Christ the holy innocent  
Took our sin and punishment.  
Fullness of God, despised and rejected;  
Crushed for the sins of the world.

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for,  
Promise of God in Jesus.  
Through His obedience we are forgiven,  
Op'ning the floodgates of heav'n.  
All our hopes and dreams we bring  
Gladly as an offering.  
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable: God's gift in love to the world.

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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Long Ago, Prophets Knew (verse 4)*

Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethl'hem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar,  
Unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry!  
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes, we will make him welcome!

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#### Benediction:

Beloved, rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. So may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

– from Philippians 4:4-7

**Amen! Alleluia!**

**Come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!**

*A thought about worship...* “Advent is a time to review once again where our faith is placed and how our lives are lived. Trust in Jesus is not merely a onetime act but a continuous state of being, a moment-by-moment existence in Christ. It is a daily turning from a life lived for self to a life lived in tune with the power of the Spirit who continually calls us to be like Jesus.”

(Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 52).

**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18;  
Matthew 2:13-23

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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