



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 19, 2010 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

GATHERING

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.

Text: Latin hymn, *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, 1710.
Verse 4 transl, Henry S. Coffin. Music: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

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

Text: Latin hymn, *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, 1710.
Verse transl., John M. Neale. Music: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

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!

– from Psalm 85:7-13

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



INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest Heav’n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity;
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Come, Desire of nations, come, fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman’s conqu’ring Seed, bruise in us the serpent’s head.
Now display Thy saving power, ruined nature now restore;
Now in mystic union join Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Public domain. Text, Charles Wesley; Music, Felix Mendelssohn.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

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 we have received grace, and have become obedient to the faith for the sake of His name.

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.

— from Romans 1:1-7

CHORAL MEDITATION

The Blessed Son of God

The blessed Son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good. Kyrie eleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally. Kyrie eleison.

All this did He for us freely,
For to declare His great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give Him thanks forevermore. Kyrie eleison.

Words by Miles Coverdale after Martin Luther; Music: R. Vaughan Williams



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Individual prayers of confession

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

Psalm 80:19

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord's grace is sure. God has looked with favor upon His people and has redeemed them. God has raised up a mighty Savior from the house of David. God has shown mercy and has remembered His promises.

In Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

from Luke 1:68-72, 1 Tim. 1:15

Jesus the Son of God

He came in sweet surrender
To a manger here below;
He came in love so tender
So all the world would know.
The Savior sent from heaven,
Born that holy night,
Jesus, our Emmanuel, came to give us life.

Jesus, the Son of God, born to be our Savior;
Jesus, the Son of God, born to be our Lord.
Bow down and worship Him,
Worship Him, worship Him.
Bow down and worship Him,
Worship Jesus our Lord.

Carol Cymbala; ©2001 Carol Joy Music



TIME OF OFFERING

God of love, Prince of Peace, King of kings: You humbled Yourself and dwelt among us, the Word made flesh, that we might have life. With grateful hearts we bring these gifts, Your tithes and our offerings. In worship, may our loving hearts enthrone You.

What Child is This?

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherd watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Public domain. Words, William C. Dix; Tune *Greensleeves*



LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Lighting of the candle

Response:

O Dayspring, Brightness of the Light eternal and Sun of Justice:

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

O King of nations,

their desire and the cornerstone that binds them in one:

**Come, and deliver us whom you formed
out of the dust of the earth.**

THE WORD

Matthew 1:18-25

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

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



Prepare a Place

Prepare a place while you're waiting.
Prepare a place for the coming One.
Prepare a place and be patient
While you wait for the coming One.
Wait for the coming One.
While you wait for the coming One.

Prepare your heart while you're waiting.
Prepare your heart for the coming One.
Set time aside and be quiet
While you wait for the coming One.
Wait for the coming One. While you wait for the coming One.

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Words and music by Christine Dente and Michael W. Smith.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

People, Look East

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, ©1931. Hymn tune: *Besançon*.

Benediction:

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who came full of grace and truth,
also fill our hearts with grace, and truth, and love and peace,
as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!



A note about The Season of Light...

The Season of Light begins with the four-week period of Advent, when the Church joyfully remembers the coming of Christ and eagerly looks forward to His coming again. Beginning with the Sunday nearest November 30, the season includes the four Sundays before Christmas. You'll notice that one of the dominant colors used in worship during this time of year is purple, which is meant to be a reminder of the royalty of Christ and the dignity of the season. The color also harkens to an early practice when, like Lent, Advent was considered a time of penitence.

A thought about worship...

“Advent is a time when we ask, even plead with God not to leave us alone, for when God leaves us to our own choices and turns us over to our own ways, we are certain to drift from him. . . . If we would break away from a spiritual life growing cold and a Christ who is becoming distant, we must be attentive to our spiritual discipline and long for God to break in on us with new life. When we do this, we experience the true meaning of Advent spirituality.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 43, 53).

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community meets on 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.