



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 18, 2011



GATHERING

Call to worship

Laura Nelson

Magnificat

Words and Music: Keith Getty,
Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

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



Annunciation, William Morris/Edward Burne Jones



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all Thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of invocation and of praise

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.**

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!

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



PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

**Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the image of the invisible
God, the firstborn of all creation.**

**In Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible
and invisible.**

**All things have been created through Him and for Him,
and in Him all things hold together.**

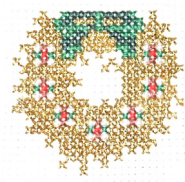
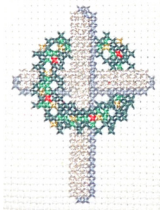
**In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him
God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in
heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.**

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.

– Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 2:14



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
in hopeful expectation for your peace, for your pardon, and for your
grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus.**



Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

Setting: Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler.

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

Dona Nobis Pacem

Dona nobis pacem (repeat)

(Translation: Grant us peace)

Text: ancient Latin prayer. Music: W. A. Mozart, Canon 3 in F.

TIME OF OFFERING



Prayers of thanksgiving and dedication

**With joy and gratitude, we offer our gifts to God
as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.
We are ever thankful to You for showing us the greatness of Your
loving heart.**

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

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.

CCLI Song No. 2697066; ©1998 New Spring; Words by Jean Sophia Pigott; Music by David Hampton



LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Lighting of the candle

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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 and joy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

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



THE WORD

Luke 1:26-38; 46b-55

John 14:27; 16:33; 20:26



Annunciation, He Qi, 2001

THE TABLE

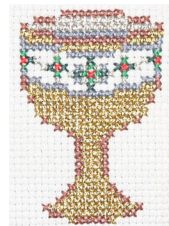
Remembering the Body of Christ

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 in heaven, hallowed by Your Name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,
On earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours,
Now and forever. Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
And my spirit exults in God my Savior.
For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness,
And His name will be forever exalted.
For the mighty God has done great things for me,
And His mercy will reach from age to age.

And holy, holy, holy is His name.

He has mercy in ev'ry generation;
He has revealed His power and His glory.
He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance,
And has lifted up the meek and the lowly.
He has come to help His servant Israel;
He remembers His promise to our fathers.

CCLI Song No. 14497; ©1980 Birdwing Music; John Michael Talbot



The Life of the Body

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verse 4)

Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

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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. Come quickly Lord Jesus.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship...—“In Advent we celebrate the beginning and ending of Christ’s victory over the powers of evil, and we call upon God to accomplish that victory in our own lives, to break in on us, to be born in our hearts, and to create us anew. This is the message of Isaiah to us: a Savior is coming not only to Israel but to the whole world.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 44).

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 9:2-7, 52:7-10, 62:6-12; Psalms 96-98;
Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-14

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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