



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 21, 2014



GATHERING

Leader:

Behold, our God comes; He does not keep silence.

In love, He gathers His covenant people to Him.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD forever,

Your faithfulness to all generations!

May Your lovingkindness come to us,

Your salvation according to Your promise.

For You said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen One;

I have sworn to My servant David: 'I will establish your line forever,
and build your throne to all generations.'"

Give the king Your judgments, O God,

and Your righteousness to the king's Son.

He will judge Your people with righteousness,

and Your poor with justice.

He will defend the afflicted, give deliverance to the children of the
needy, and break in pieces the oppressor.

He shall be like rain that falls on the mown grass,

like showers that water the earth!

In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace,
until the moon is no more!

Blessed be the LORD GOD, the God of Israel,

who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be His glorious name forever;

May the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!

— Scripture weaving from Psalms 50, 119, 89, and 72



Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
To take away transgression and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth.
Before Him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before Him, and gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing;
For He shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,
Far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar.

Hymn tune: Melchior Teschner „ST. THEODULPH, 76.76 D. Words: James Montgomery; based on Psalm 72; first sung on Christmas Day, 1821 Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2011 Ellen Koehler.

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome 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!

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



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

Call to confession:

Listen to what the LORD our God says: He promises peace to His people, to His faithful, to those who turn to Him in their hearts.

– Psalm 85:8

*O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver,
the Expectation and Savior of the nations:*

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

[Silence]

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

– The Jesus Prayer
Traditional, 4th century

[Silent confessions]

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

(sung)

Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls us one and calls us all
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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 thanksgiving and devotion

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 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 9:2-7

Lighting of the candle

Reader: 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

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55



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 be 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)



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.

CCLI Song #4411752; ©2004 Thankyou Music.
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.
CCLI License # 3097801

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body





Hail to the Lord's Anointed (verse 4)

O'er every foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever, His name to us is Love.

Teschner/ Montgomery; setting: Koehler.

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 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 61:10-62:3; Psalms 148; Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

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.

©2014 E.K.