



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 23, 2012



GATHERING

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

Listen to what God the LORD says:

He promises peace to His people, to 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



Messiah, He Qi, 2001



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 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!

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:

**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

Blest Be the God of Israel

Blest be the God of Israel who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us, He grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill His promise, and bring His people peace.

He from the house of David a child of grace has giv'n.
A Savior comes among us, to raise us up to heav'n.
Before Him goes His herald, forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise;
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
Oh, bless our God and Savior, with songs that never cease.

Words: Basil Harwood and Michael Perry; Hymn Tune: FOREST GREEN (traditional English melody).



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

– Psalm 80:1, 19

[Silent confessions]

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

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

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

Prayers of thanksgiving, praise and devotion

O Mighty One, You have done and are doing great things. Bless all we offer You – ourselves, our time, and our possessions – to the glory of Your name, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**



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 #14497 ©1980 Birdwing Music; John Michael Talbot



LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Lighting of the candle

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, our joy, and our peace.



THE WORD

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:39-55

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory, now and forever,
Amen, amen, amen.

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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

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:

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: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

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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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