



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

December 29, 2013 (First Sunday after Christmas)

## GATHERING

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise Him in the heights!

**Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His host!**

**Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars!**

Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for He commanded and they were created.

**He established them forever and ever; He fixed their bounds,  
which cannot be passed.**

Praise the LORD from the earth, all creatures and all nature;

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**Let them praise the name of the LORD,**

**for His name alone is exalted;**

**His glory is above earth and heaven.**

**He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His faithful,**

**for the people of Israel who are close to Him. Praise the LORD!**

— from Psalm 148





### *O Come All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him!  
O come, let us adore Him!  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

O come let us adore Him...

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come let us adore Him...

Public domain. Text: Latin hymns, ascribed to John Francis Wade. Music: John Francis Wade.

### INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

### *Good Christians All, Rejoice*

Good Christians all, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice.  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before Him bow,  
And He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!



Good Christians all, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice.  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
And man is blessed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

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

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers  
by the prophets;

**But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He  
appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created  
the worlds.**

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His  
nature, and He sustains all things by the word of His power.

**After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of  
the Majesty on high.**

It was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in  
bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their  
salvation perfect through suffering.

**For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one  
Father. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers and  
sisters.**

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He himself  
likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might  
destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and  
free all those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of  
death.

**He became like them in every respect, so that He might be a  
merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make  
atonement for the sins of the people.**

**Because He himself was tested by what He suffered, He is able  
to help those who are being tested.**

– from Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:10-18



*Good Christians All, Rejoice (verse 3)*

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

Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to His people. For unto us is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
*We praise You, we bless You, we give You thanks for this greatest of Your mercies.*

[Silent confessions]

**O Lamb of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, Jesus Christ,  
who was made human to take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us and turn us from our iniquities.  
You who were made manifest to destroy the works of the devil,  
have mercy upon us and enable us to renounce and forsake  
them.  
You who are our great advocate with the Father,  
receive our prayer. Amen.**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King;  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland H. Prichard; hymn tune: HYFRYDOL



#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the word of promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

*I will recount the gracious deeds and praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done for us,  
according to His mercy and the abundance of His steadfast love.*

For He said, “Surely they are my people,”

and He became their Savior in all their distress.

*It was no messenger or angel, but His presence that saved them.*

*In His love and in His pity He redeemed them;*

*He lifted them up and carried them.*

— from Isaiah 63:7-9

#### *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen*

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;

O tidings of comfort and joy.

God rest ye, merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;

Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,

To save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, ...

Public domain. Traditional English carol.

#### TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise. . .

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*

## THE WORD

Matthew 2:13-23

## 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.**



Flight Into Egypt. He Oi, Contemp.



### *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)

### *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing worldly minded, for with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood.  
Lord of lords in human nature, in the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with watchful eye,  
Veil their faces to His presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high!"

Public domain. Tune: PICARDY (French carol). Liturgy of St. James, tr. by Gerard Moultrie

### *Agnus Dei*

Alleluia, alleluia, for our Lord God Almighty reigns. (repeat)  
Alleluia. Holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb. (repeat) You are holy.  
Holy are You, Lord God Almighty.  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

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## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

#### *Good Christians All, Rejoice (reprise)*

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!

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#### Benediction:

Beloved, let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. And as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, whatever you do, walking out your baptisms, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks always to God the Father through Him.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

—based on Colossians 3:14-17

*A thought about worship...*—“The incarnation is the starting point for our spirituality. . . . God united himself with humans in order for men and women to be united with God. The incarnation is not something unrelated to us; it has everything to do with our spirituality—for the incarnation not only brings God to human nature but brings human nature to God.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 62).

Prayer of confession adapted and reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, ©2004 CRC Publications, p. 470.

**Lectionary for next week:** Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;  
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

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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