



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

January 5, 2014 (Second Sunday after Christmas)

GATHERING

Lord, open our lips;

And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever,
Forever. Amen, amen, amen.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2009 Ellen Koehler.

O come, let us worship the LORD
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

Alleluia! The Lord is come!

Unto us a child is born, unto us a King is given!

O come, let us worship the LORD
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the LORD
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**Christ, the Word made flesh, unveils to us God's hidden mystery,
that we have become joint heirs of the promise of salvation!**

O come, let us worship the LORD, for God has done wondrous things!



Here I Am to Worship

Light of the world, You stepped out into darkness,
Opened my eyes let me see:
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus:

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted; glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

CCLI Song #3266032. ©2000 Thankyou Music. Tim Hughes. CCLI License # 3097801

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Jesus Christ, the True Light, shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Blessed are You, God of light!

*Shine in our lives with the light of Christ, that we might give You praise
through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit
now and forever.*

Amen.

O Come All Ye Faithful

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

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal;
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created.

O come let us adore Him...

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We believe that the Son of God,
the second person of the Trinity,
being truly and eternally God,
of one substance and equal with the Father,
did, when the fullness of time had come,
take upon Himself human nature,
with all its essential properties and common frailties,
yet without sin.**

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
in the womb of the virgin Mary, and of her substance.

*In this way, two whole natures,
the divine and the human,
perfect and distinct,
were inseparably joined together
in one person without being changed, mixed, or confused.*

**This person is truly God and truly man,
yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.**

In His human nature, united to the divine nature, the Lord Jesus
was set apart and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure,
having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

*In Him the Father was pleased to have all fullness dwell,
so that being holy, blameless, and undefiled,
full of grace and truth,
He might be completely equipped
to fulfill the office of a mediator and guarantor.*

**He did not take this office to Himself
but was called to it by His Father,
who put all power and judgment into His hand
and commanded Him to execute it.**

– from Westminster Confession (MESV), Chap. VIII, Sec. 2-3



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

He was born of a woman, born under the Law; in the likeness of sinful flesh, to be an offering for our sin; so that He might redeem us, that we might receive adoption as His children.

According to His own mercy, He saved us, and justified us by His grace, that we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

— from Galatians 4:4-5, Romans 8:3; Titus 3:5-7

[Silent confessions]

Everlasting and loving God, You have stooped down to raise and restore fallen humanity. Yet too often we fail to live as Your redeemed people.

We confess that we have sinned against You and against others, in what we have done and what we have left undone.

Forgive us, we pray. Grant that we who have seen Your glory revealed in human nature, and Your love made perfect in weakness, may daily be renewed in Your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Blest are the Pure in Heart

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul He doth Himself impart;
And for His cradle and His throne, chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

To all who received Him, who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

– John 1:12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love!

He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of his glorious grace that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace that He lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

– Ephesians 1:3-10

Thanks be to God!



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise. . .

God of eternity, we bring these humble offerings, signs of Your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of Your love in the Word-made-flesh.
Amen.



Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature;
O Thou of God, and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair is the sunshine; fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

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THE WORD

John 1:1-18

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.

CCLI Song No. 4411752; ©2004 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness; and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Public domain. Text: Isaac Watts. Music: George Frederick Handel, arr. by Lowell Mason.

Benediction:

Jesus, from the beginning, is the Word, made flesh in our midst.

May His incarnation fill our hearts with joy and peace.

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.

May His birth among us renew our hope.

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

May the gift of His presence bring forth rejoicing.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“Stars cross the sky, wise men journey from pagan lands, earth receives its savior in a cave. Let there be no one without a gift to offer, no one without gratitude as we celebrate the salvation of the world, the birthday of the human race. Now it is no longer, ‘dust you are and to dust you shall return,’ but ‘you are joined to heaven and into heaven shall you be taken up.’”

– Basil the Great

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Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 147:12-20; Acts 10:34-43;

Matthew 3:13-17

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.

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