



# Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

*Liturgy*

Epiphany Lessons and Carols (January 6, 2013)

## GATHERING

O come, let us worship the LORD

and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

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:

**The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,  
making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the  
gospel!**

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

In Jesus Christ the 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.**

*How Brightly Beams the Morning Star*

How brightly beams the Morning Star!

What sudden radiance from afar

Doth glad us with its shining.

Brightness of God that breaks our night

And fills the darkened souls with light

Who long for truth were pining!

Sing, ye heavens, tell the story

Of His glory, till His praises

Flood with light earth's darkest places.





Thou heavenly brightness! Light divine!  
O deep within my heart now shine,  
And make Thee there an altar!  
Thou root of Jesse, David's Son,  
My Lord and Master, Thou hast won  
My heart to serve Thee solely!  
Thou art holy,  
Fair and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing,  
Rule and might o'er all possessing.

Public domain. Words, verse 1, Johann Schlegel, 1765, verse 2 Philip Nicolai, 1599 (From *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*). Trans. Catherine Winkworth. Hymn Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET,; harmony by J. S. Bach.

## INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Almighty LORD God, you gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world.

**We praise and magnify your holy name, for in Him you have revealed the wonder and mystery of your plan for all creation.**

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

## FIRST LESSON John 1:1-5

Saint John declares the Incarnation, the Light of the world

*Now there are two ways that the darkness did not overcome the light. The darkness is either left very far behind it and, because it is slow, cannot keep up with the swiftness of the flight of light even to a limited extent, or, perhaps the light wanted to set an ambush for the darkness and awaited its approach and when the darkness drew near the light it was destroyed.* — Origen



### *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.

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### SECOND LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

The prophet foretells the Eternal Light.

*It is the church whose children shall come to it with all speed after the resurrection. The church rejoices, receiving the light that never goes down and clothed with the brightness of the Word as with a robe. ... – Methodius*

### *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.

#### *Refrain:*

Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen His natal star.

Though an Infant now we view Him, He shall fill His Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to Him; every knee shall then bow down.

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### THIRD LESSON Psalm 96

Heaven and earth rejoice!

*When the whole earth sings a new song, it is the house of God. It is built by singing, its foundations are believing, it is erected by hoping, it is completed by loving. So it is being built now, but it is dedicated at the end of the world. Let the living stones, then, come flocking together to the new song, come flocking altogether and be fitted together into the fabric of God's temple. Let them recognize their Savior and perceive him as their occupant. – Augustine*

#### *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.

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### FOURTH LESSON Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

The psalmist foretells the reign of righteousness

*For his kingdom and its throne will stand as long as the sun. And he alone of people, as the Word of God, existed before the moon and the creation of the world, and he alone came down like dew from heaven on all the earth.....  
From that time his kingdom has spread and extended through the whole world.*  
– Eusebius of Caesarea

### Call to Confession of Sins

[Silent confessions]

#### *King of Wisdom and Light*

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might:  
Heaven is filled with Your glory, King of wisdom and light.



We worship You, We praise You, God Most High;  
We worship You, We praise You, King and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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## Assurance of Pardon

### FIFTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

The star leads those who seek Him

*In this way marvel was linked to marvel: the Magi were worshipping, the star was going before them. All this is enough to captivate a heart made of stone. If it had been only the wise men or only the prophets or only the angels who had said these things, it might have been disbelieved. But now with all this confluence of varied evidence, even the most skeptical mouths are stopped.*

– Chrysostom

Time of Offering

### *As With Gladness Men of Old*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed;  
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav'nly King.

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### SIXTH LESSON Ephesians 3:1-12

Saint Paul explains the mystery now revealed in Christ

*The Gentiles are fellow heirs with Israel. Put more precisely, they are fellow heirs with Christ. ...It is not that some possession is divided among us but that God himself in his fullness is our inheritance and possession.* – Jerome



### *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there;  
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.  
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;  
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing away.

O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy,  
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless Boy.  
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;  
Now spreads the fame of His dear name on all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,  
Of Him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still;  
For though like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,  
When faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,  
Of Him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.  
For He who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,  
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

Public domain. Words: Louis F. Benson. Tune: Kingsfold, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

### 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* (spoken)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
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

Public Domain; Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; Transl. source unknown, vs 1-3; verse 4, Joseph A. Seiss. Music *Schleisiche Volkslieder*, 1842

SEVENTH LESSON Revelation 21:22-27, 22:3-7, 16, 20  
Christ, the Lamb, is the everlasting Light

*Where there is the intellectual Sun of righteousness, there is no need of perceptible luminaries. For he is both the glory and the lamp of the city, and "the nations" of those who are being saved will walk in its light.*

– Andrew of Caesarea

### *Revelation Song*

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; holy, holy is He.  
Sing a new song to Him who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

#### *Chorus*

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;  
You are my ev'rything, and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color,  
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power  
Be to You, the only wise King.

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SENDING FORTH  
Prayer

Benediction:

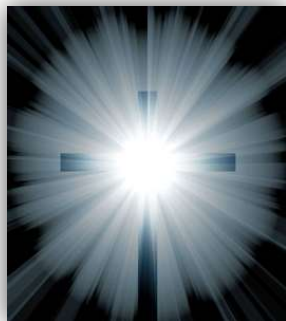
O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of darkness into marvelous light, enable us always to declare Your wonderful deeds, thank You for your steadfast love, and praise you with heart, soul, mind, and strength, now and forever.

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

*Christ, Be Our Light*

Longing for light, we were in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turned to You.  
Make us your own, Your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in Your church sent forth today.



Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell; © OCP Publications 1998

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**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17;  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

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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