



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

February 20, 2011 (Seventh Sunday of Epiphany)

Heaven and Nature Sing! Heaven's Standards Overturn Earth's Rules

GATHERING

Ancient of Days

Blessing and honor, glory and power,
Be unto the Ancient of Days.
From ev'ry nation, all of creation,
Bow before the Ancient of Days.
Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne in worship;
You will be exalted, O God,
And Your kingdom shall not pass away, O Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth;
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.
For none can compare to Your matchless worth;
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

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Ancient of Days, William Blake, 1794



The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains,
the world, and those who dwell in it.

**Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For He commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
He made a decree that will not pass away.**

O LORD, who may abide in Your tent?

Who may dwell on Your holy hill?

**Those who walk with integrity, and work righteousness,
and speak truth in their hearts.**

They shall receive a blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

**The LORD reigns in righteousness, justice and lovingkindness.
Your throne, O Ancient of Days, is established forever.**

– from Psalms 9, 15, 24, 148

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Ancient of Days (reprise)

Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory,
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne in worship;
You will be exalted, O God,
And Your kingdom shall not pass away, O Ancient of Days.

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
*God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.*

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

*He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried.*

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
*He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.*

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Nicene Creed

READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18



Holiness, Cornelis Monsma, Contemp



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Psalm 119:33-40 (chant)

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,*
and I will follow it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law*
and obey it with my whole heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments,*
for I delight in it.
Turn my heart to your decrees,*
and not to selfish gain.
Turn my eyes away from worthless things;*
and revive me in your ways.
Fulfill your promise to your servant,*
so that you may be feared.
Take away the disgrace that I dread,*
for your ordinances are good.
Behold, how I long for your precepts!*
In your righteousness give me life.

Silent prayers of confession and commitment

Purify My Heart

Purify my heart,
Touch me with Your cleansing fire;
Take me to the cross,
Your holiness is my desire.
Breathe Your life in me,
Kindle a love
That flows from Your throne.
Oh, purify my heart,
Purify my heart.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you:

God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.

*If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness,
we lie and do not live out the truth.*

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

– 1 John 1:5-7, NIV

TIME OF OFFERING

Holy and loving God, You have graced us with abundant blessings – with Your light, Your life, Your awesome presence. With gratitude and in worship, we bow down before You. Accept with these offerings, we pray, our whole selves: all that we have, all that we are, all that we shall become, and our resolve to walk always in Your way. For Jesus' sake and for His glory alone. Amen.

Bow Down

Bow down before the Lord,
Worship Him, O worship Him.
Bow down before our God,
Enter in, O enter in.
Consuming fire and sweet perfume,
His awesome presence fills this room.
This is holy ground, so come and bow down.

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THE WORD

Matthew 5: 38-48

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

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



The Bread Sharers #1, Daniel Bonnell,
Contemporary

Make Us One

Make us one, make us one;
Make us one, undivided body.
Make us one, make us one.
For the sake of Your Name, make us one.

Make us love, make us love;
Make us love, so the world will know we love You.
Make us love, make us love.
For the sake of Your Name, make us love.

Make us pure, make us pure;
Make us pure, and righteous, make us holy.
Make us pure, make us pure.
For the sake of Your Name, make us pure.



Make us one, make us one;
Make us one, undivided body.
Make us one, make us one.
For the sake of Your Name, make us one.
For the sake of Your Name, 'til You come;
For the sake of Your Name, make us one.

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SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus:

On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

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Benediction

Now may our holy God make you holy and whole,
put you together – mind, soul, and spirit –
and keep you fit for the coming of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ, the Faithful One,
whose calling of you is sure.

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

—from 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

A thought about worship...

“*Worship tells and acts out the Christ-event.* In this sense, the order of worship comes from *above*, and not from *below*. Worship is patterned after God who revealed and God who become incarnate. Therefore, the twofold focus of worship is the Word (the Bible as the symbol of God speaking) and the Table (bread and wine as the symbol of God acting to save us).” (Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God’s Mighty Deeds of Salvation* [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992], 45.)

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community
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.



Contemplation, Chris Shreve, Contemp