



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Epiphany Lessons and Carols
Sunday, 9 January 2011

Heaven and Nature Sing! The Good News is for Everyone!

PRELUDE (Instrumental)

How Brightly Beams the Morning Star

Public domain. Words, Johann Schlegel, 1765, trans. Catherine Winkworth.

Hymn Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philip Nicolai, 1599.

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.**

PRAYER

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

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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, running to it from all quarters. The church rejoices, receiving the light that never goes down and closed with the brightness of the Word as with a robe. For with what other more precious or honorable ornament was it becoming that the queen should be adorned, to be led as a bride to the Lord, when she had received a garment of light and therefore was called by the Father?

– Methodius

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heav'nly Light

Text: Johann Rist, vs 1; transl. John Troutbeck; vs 2, Joseph Barlowe.
Music: Johann Schop; harmonized by J. S. Bach

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

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



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..... And our Savior's power is supreme from the eastern Sea to the west, beginning its activity at the river...where he first appeared to benefit humankind. From that time his kingdom has spread and extended through the whole world.

– Eusebius of Caesarea

King of Wisdom and Light

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FIFTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

The star leads those who seek Him

In this way marvel was linked to marvel: the Magi were worshiping, 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

As With Gladness Men of Old

Public domain. Text, William C. Dix; Music, Conrad Kocher

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

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



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

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SENDING FORTH

Fairest Lord Jesus

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

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

Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell; © OCP Publications 1998

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.