



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

February 26, 2012 (First Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

Your covenant love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,
Your faithfulness extends to the skies.

**Your righteousness towers like the mountains,
Your justice is deeper than the sea.**

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!

**Therefore the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your
wings. We feast on the abundance You provide.**

For with You is the fountain of life. In Your light we see light.

**O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,
And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.**

Psalms 36:5-10



Noah, the Ark and Noah's Covenant, c. 1965, Executed by
Marchesa And Hamersma, Christ Church, Pompton
Pompton Lakes NJ



Unchanging

Great is Your faithfulness, great is Your faithfulness.
You never change, You never fail, O God.

True are Your promises, true are Your promises.
You never change, You never fail, O God.

Chorus:

So, we raise up holy hands to praise the Holy One
Who was, and is, and is to come.
Yeah, we raise up holy hands to praise the Holy One
Who was, and is, and is to come.

Wide is Your love and grace, wide is Your love and grace.
You never change, You never fail, O God.

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INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

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Text: Thomas O. Chisholm | Music: William M. Runyan



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and in all places in these words from the first Epistle of Peter:

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit, in which also He went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison.

In former times they did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark.

In the ark, a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

He has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to Him.

– from 1 Peter 3:18-22

Psalms 25:1-5

Refrain (sung):

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in You I put my trust.

(Spoken)

Do not let me be put to shame;
Do not let my enemies exult over me.
*Do not let those who wait for You be put to shame;
Let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*

Refrain

Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;
Teach me Your paths.
*Lead me in Your truth, and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all day long.*

Refrain

Setting Ellen Koehler ©2010.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Be mindful of Your mercy, O Lord, and of Your steadfast love,
For they have been from of old.

*Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
According to Your steadfast love remember me,
For Your goodness' sake, O Lord!*

— Psalm 25:6-7

Everlasting God, fountain of all life and the true home of every heart: our hearts are restless until they rest in You. Yet we confess that we have allowed our hearts to be drawn away from our rest in You. We have sought after many things, and too easily neglected Your ways. We have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

[Silent confessions]

**For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in Your ways, and worship You in spirit and in truth.
Amen.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.

*All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
For those who keep His covenant and His decrees.*

– Psalm 25:8-10

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and devotion

Fountain of Grace

You have been faithful when I have been faithless,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
Forever giving when I have been selfish,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Still the beginning of all that is holy,
Unsearchable Ancient of Days.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You were the constant when I chose to wander,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.
You were forgiveness when I cried for mercy,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

You are the author of all that is finished,
I owe You my life and my praise.
I kneel before You, and offer this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Pour out the water of life on this vessel,
Oh, unending Fountain of Grace.

Words and Music by Twila Paris. ©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music



THE WORD

Genesis 9:8-17

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15



THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Noah, Daniel Bonnell, Contemp.

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**



Here is Love

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Of Your fullness You are pouring
Your great pow'r and love anew,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out our hearts to You.
You alone will be our glory,
Nothing in the world we see.
You have cleansed and sanctified us,
You Yourself have set us free.

Let us all Your love accepting
Love You ever, all our days;
Let us seek Your kingdom only
And our lives be to Your praise.



Public Domain. William Rees (vs. 1-2); transl. from Welsh by William Edwards (1900) verses 3-4 attributed to William Williams (adapted by Ellen Koehler); Music: Robert Lowry, 1876.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Unchanging (reprise)

So, we raise up holy hands to praise the Holy One
Who was, and is, and is to come.
We raise up holy hands to praise the Holy One
Who was, and is, and is to come.

CCLI Song No. 4016669. ©2002 worshiptogether.com songs. Chris Tomlin

Benediction

Now brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, loving and serving the Lord, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent, walking in Christ's own footsteps and taking on His likeness. And whether the Spirit asks you to put something off, or take something on, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, who was obedient even to the point of death.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

A thought about worship...— “The early church fathers saw “relationship” written in large letters over *baptism* and *the Eucharist*. . . . Baptism is our marriage while Eucharist is the kiss of love. . . . We tend to see baptism and Eucharist as *our* signs of devotion to God. In the ancient church baptism was first God's sign of our union with him and then our sign of embracing this union and its calling to live in the pattern of death and resurrection. Eucharist is also God's sign—a kind of affirmation of Jesus' death for us and his resurrection for us. . . . Through bread and wine [the Spirit] continually nourishes us in the pattern of death and resurrection spirituality first confirmed at our baptism.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 156-157.)

Lectionary for next week: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

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.

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