



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 20, 2011 (Second Sunday in Lent)

GATHERING

I will lift up my eyes to the hills;

From where shall my help come?

**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

He will not allow your foot to slip;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;

He shall preserve your soul.

**The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and even forevermore.**

Thanks be to God for His everlasting, Covenant love.



— based on John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Never Alone, Ron DiCianni, Contemporary



O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward
To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own.
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

Traditional. Text: Samuel Trevor Francis. Tune: Thomas J. Williams (Hymn tune: Ebenezer);
Setting Ellen Koehler ©2008



INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name;
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Songs and Prayers from Taizé; ©1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé Community, France

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The word of the Lord:

God, being rich in mercy,
because of His great love with which He loved us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
made us alive together with Christ.

*By grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves:
It is the gift of God.*

For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

*For God did not send His Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.*

— from Ephesians 2:4-9; John 3:16-17



How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss!
The Father turns His face away.
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

CCLI Song No. 1558110; ©1995 Thankyou Music; Stuart Townend

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, You have loved us with a love beyond our understanding. In creation You fashioned us in Your image, and You have set us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Yet too often we have strayed from your way. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored Your name. Our lives distort Your image, but still You restore it; we often betray Your love, yet still You extend it. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. In Your great mercy, forgive us – not because we are worthy but for the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us – that we may walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.



On the Earth and in Heaven, Henri Lindegaard,
Contemporary



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world through Him might be saved.

All those who believe in Him are not condemned, because they have believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God, and have loved the Light. They have come to the Light, and walk in the truth.

— from Romans 5:8, John 3:17, John 3: 18-21

How Deep the Father's Love For Us (vs. 3)

I will not boast in anything;
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

CCLI Song No. 1558110; ©1995 Thankyou Music; Stuart Townend



Nicodemus Seeks Jesus at Night,
Alexandre Bida, 1874



TIME OF OFFERING

Prayers of thanksgiving and dedication

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;
O, let me from this day be wholly Thine.

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.
As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee,
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my Guide;
Be Thou my guide....
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

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THE WORD

READING: John 3:1-17

Meditation on the Lenten portrait: *Nicodemus, One of Us*



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



O The Passion

O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ;
King of Glory on the altar, Perfect Lamb of sacrifice.
Who are we that He would love us? Who but He would give His life?
O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ.

O, the wisdom, O, the wonder of the power of the cross;
Love so rare no words could tell it, Life Himself has died for us.
Who are we that He would save us? Crucified to give us life;
O, the wisdom, O, the wonder of the power of the cross.

O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ;
Death defeated by His rising, Darkness conquered by His light.
We will sing His praise forever, Worthy is the Lamb of Life;
O, the passion, O, the wonder Of the fiery love of Christ.

Who are we that He would love us?
Who, but He would give His life?
O, the passion, O, the wonder of the fiery love of Christ.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

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...

"I once understood the gospel as God asking me to let him into my narrative, to find room for him in my heart and life. But now I realize that God bids me to find my place in his narrative. In God's story, he, with his own two hands—the incarnate Word and the Holy Spirit—recapitulated and reversed the human situation so I can now live in him. Through him I can live in the expectation of a restored world without the presence of evil. Here and now, because God became incarnate and recapitulated all things, I live in him, in his narrative, and he lives in my life, which is to be a witness to his narrative for the world."

(Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008], 174-175.)

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.