



Epiclesis

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

November 13, 2011 (Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or You had formed the
earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.
Teach us, Lord, to number our days
that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and confirm the work of our hands.

– from Psalm 90

Reading: Matthew 25:14-19



God appears to announce the return of Christ at the end of the world, Stephanus Garsia Placidus, 11th Century



You'll Come

I have decided, I have resolved, to wait upon You, Lord.
My Rock and Redeemer, Shield and Reward,
I'll wait upon You, Lord.

As surely as the sun will rise You'll come to us,
Certain as the dawn appears –

Chorus:

You'll come; let Your glory fall as You're revealed to us.
Emmanuel, free our captive, waiting hearts anew.
You'll come, You'll come.

We are not shaken, we are not moved; we wait upon You, Lord.
Mighty Deliverer, Triumph and Truth, we wait upon You, Lord.

As surely as the sun will rise You'll come to us,
Certain as Your word endures –

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(Chorus text altered, C. Alford and E. Koehler) CCLI License # 3097801

INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

Master, our wandering hearts long for Your return . . .

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's redeeming love.



Hitherto Thy love has blest me, Thou hast brought me to this place.
And I know Thy hand will bring me safely home by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger bought me with His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Your goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Your courts above.

Public domain. Text, Robert Robinson; trad. American melody, John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.

For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day;

We are not of the night nor of the darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with Him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

—1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

For the Master will return and settle accounts.



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O God, You have given us the sure promise that Jesus will return to judge the earth. But we have not always kept watch for You. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns, and have not noticed the needs of those around us. We have not waited to find Your will for us.

Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Make us ready, we pray, for Christ's royal coming, that we may consider daily what sort of people we ought to be, and be found faithful servants waiting and working for our Master's return.

For His name's sake and for His glory. **Amen.**

[Silent confessions]

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be encouraged in these words of assurance, written by Paul to the Romans:

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand;
and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

– Romans 5:1-2

God demonstrates his own love toward us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Having now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!

– Romans 5:8-9



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and hope

All To Us

Precious cornerstone, sure foundation,
You are faithful to the end.
We are waiting on You, Jesus.
We believe; You're all to us.
(repeat)

Chorus:

Let the glory of Your name be the passion of the Church.
Let the righteousness of God be a holy flame that burns.
Let the saving love of Christ be the measure of our lives.
We believe; You're all to us.

Verse 2:

Only Son of God, sent from heaven;
Hope and mercy at the cross.
You are ev'rything, You're the promise;
Jesus, You are all to us.

Verse 3:

When this passing world is over,
We will see You face to face,
And forever we will worship;
Jesus, You are all to us.
Jesus, You are all to us.

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THE WORD

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

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.



Cast Our Crowns, James B. Janknegt, 2002

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by Your Name.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done,

On earth as in heav'n.

Give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

Setting by Eric Wyse; ©2000 Wildgrove Music (BMI)



The Solid Rock

Verse 1

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 darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

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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I Don't Mind Waiting

(Juanita Bynum)

I don't mind waiting, I don't mind waiting,
I don't mind waiting on the Lord



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (reprise)

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Your goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Your courts above.

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Benediction:

As we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord,
May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your
spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ when He returns to settle accounts.

For we confidently proclaim:

We believe, we belong, we behave. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

—based on 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

A thought about worship... “Worship does God’s story. It proclaims God’s story in the reading and preaching of the Word; in prayer, the church prays for the world God has reclaimed; in the Eucharist, the church ascends into the heavens and experiences the consummation of God’s story in the new heavens and the new earth.” (Robert E. Webber, *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006, 233).

Lectionary for next week: Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24; Psalm 100; Psalm 95:1-7a;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

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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