

An Ancient-Future Faith Community Liturgy August 17, 2014 (Tenth Sunday after Pentecost)

GATHERING

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us - so that Your ways may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!

For the LORD has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

O LORD, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart.

Glory in His holy name:

Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad.

Come, let us praise and worship our gracious God!

- from Psalms 67, 86, 98, 105; 1 Kings 8:23



The Canaanite Woman asks for healing for her daughter, yas Basim Khuri Bazzi Rahib, 1684



All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam; Thou silver moon with softer gleam, O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along: O praise Him! Alleluia! Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice; Ye lights of evening, find a voice. O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, And worship Him in humbleness: O praise Him! Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One. O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Let the Peoples Praise

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Only One, only One worthy (3x) Worthy is the Lamb.

Glory to the Righteous One (3x) From the ends of the earth we hear songs. (Hallelujah! The Lamb has won).

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: This is the hope of the gospel, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, the mystery which has now been manifested to us, His saints:

Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

In Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through Him and for Him.

He is before all things, and in Him all things consist and hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He may have first place in everything.

For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

This is in accordance with the working of the strength of His might, which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come.

- from Colossians 1:15-28 and Ephesians 1:19-21



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

[Silence]

We do not always love you with a pure heart. We do not always love our neighbor as ourselves. We do not always do justice and love kindness.

[Silence]

We desire to walk humbly with You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; Have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; Grant us peace, Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and forgiveness:

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all,

and His compassion is over all that He has made.



The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him;

He hears their cry, and saves them.

The LORD watches over all who love Him.

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever. - Psalm 145:8-9, 18-21

TIME OF OFFERING

Words of thanksgiving and stories of God's loving faithfulness

Meditation:

Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth revere Him.

Psalm 67:5-7

Where have we seen the Kingdom this week?
How has God blessed us? And how have we blessed others?

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, lover of my soul;
All consuming fire is in Your gaze.
Jesus, I want You to know
I will follow You all my days.
For no one else in history is like You,
And history itself belongs to You;
Alpha and Omega, You have loved me,
And I will share eternity with You.

It's all about You, Jesus.
And all this is for You,
For Your glory and Your fame.
It's not about me,
As if You should do things my way;
You alone are God
And I surrender to Your ways.

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THE WORD

Matthew 15:10 - 28



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.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heav'n. Provide each day our daily needs; Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever; And Thine is the power, forever and ever; And Thine is the glory, now and forever, Amen, amen, amen.

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I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

Chorus

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms; In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh there are ten thousand charms.

Verse 1

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, Full of pity, love and pow'r.

Verse 2

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify; True belief and true repentance, Ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.

Verse 3

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, Lost and ruined by the fall; If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all.

Verse 4

Let not conscience make you linger, Nor of fitness fondly dream. All the fitness He requireth Is to feel your need of Him.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009. Words: Joseph Hart (1759);

Tune: RESTORATION, William Walker (1835).

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



All Creatures of Our God and King (reprise)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him all creatures here below: O Praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia!

Benediction

Now, beloved, go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord – ever mindful of His grace and faithfulness, and rejoicing that He has called us to walk before Him with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength.

To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers -

"Everyone looks at what we do and not what we say. Scripture says, 'Thou shalt be a witness unto all men,' not just to friendly people, but also to unbelievers. For witnesses aren't meant to persuade those who already know, but those who don't know. Let us be trustworthy witnesses. . . . He has sent us to testify of Him. Let us testify and persuade those who need to decide who He is. If we don't testify, then we also have to answer for their mistake. If people wouldn't accept an exceedingly wicked witness in an earthly court, much less would they accept one here when considering such great issues. We say that we have heard Christ and that we believe the things He has promised. Then, they say, show it by your works. For your life testifies of the opposite—that you don't believe.. . . We and not just the martyrs will be witnesses for Christ. They are called martyrs because they endured everything to speak the truth when told to reject the faith. So, we must not be overcome when our passions tell us we are to reject Him."

- Chrysostom

Lectionary for next week: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113 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. ©2014 E.K