

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

December 2, 2018



GATHERING

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
On those who hope for His lovingkindness.

Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

Hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is lovingkindness,
and with Him is abundant redemption.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope.

**My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

And it will be said in that day,

“Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might
save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited!

Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”

– from Psalms 33 and 130; Isaiah 25:9

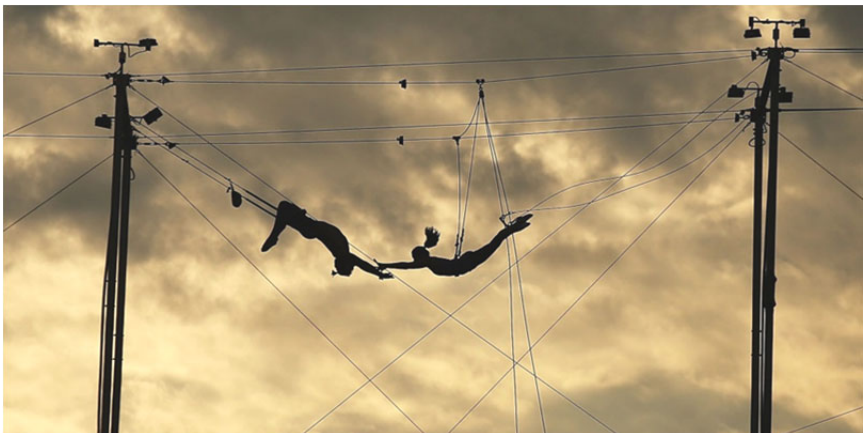
God of grace and steadfast love, ever faithful to Your promises:

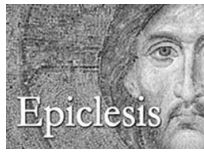
The earth rejoices in hope of the Savior’s coming,

and looks forward with longing to His return at the end of time.

Prepare our hearts to receive Him, now and always,

for He is Lord forever and forever. Amen.





Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord;
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
(Repeat)

Our God, You reign forever;
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God,
The everlasting God;
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak,
You comfort those in need,
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

CCLI Song # 4556538 ©2005 Thankyou Music; Brenton Brown and Ken Riley
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

Calling on our Father God, in the Name of Jesus, inspired by the Spirit

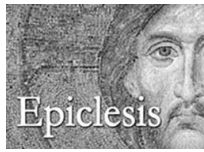
O Emmanuel,
our King and Lawgiver,
the Expectation and Savior of the nations:
Come and save us,
O Lord our God.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text: Latin hymn, 12th century; transl., John M. Neale, 1851.
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 15th century plainsong. Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages in the words of this hymn of the ancient church:

You are God; we praise You.

You are the Lord; we acclaim You.

You are the Eternal Father; all creation worships You.

To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praises you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praises you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praises you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims You:

Father of majesty unbounded,

Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory,

the eternal Son of the Father.

When You became man to set us free

You did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Leader:

Come then, Lord, and help Your people,

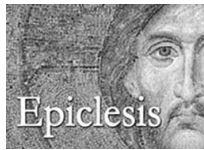
bought with the price of Your own blood,

and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

– from *Te Deum laudamus* (“Thee, O God, we praise”).

A hymn of the early church, fourth century.

Attributed to church fathers Ambrose and Augustine.



Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1745. Hymn tune: HYFRYDOL; Rowland H. Prichard, 1830.
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PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Psalm 25

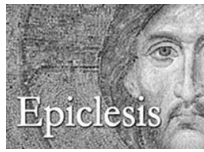
Refrain (sung):

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.*

**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 (sung):

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

(Spoken)

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!**

[Silent confessions]

Refrain (sung):

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

Setting and Refrain: ©2010 Ellen Koehler

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

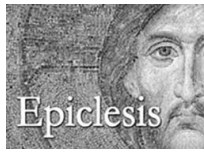
Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
*He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.*

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

– Psalm 25:8-10

How blessed are all those who wait for Him!

– Isaiah 30:18



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo, He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him,
Robed in dreadful majesty!
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Now the Savior, long-expected,
See in solemn pomp appear.
All His saints, by man rejected,
Now shall meet Him in the air.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the day of God appear.

Words: Charles Wesley and Martin Madan; based on John Cennick, 1752.
Hymn tune: REGENT SQUARE Henry T. Smart, 1867. Setting ©2011 Ellen Koehler.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Lighting of the candle

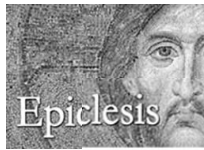
Prepare the way of the Lord.

We light this candle as a symbol of expectation and hope of the coming of our Savior, Jesus.

May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way to salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Leader: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

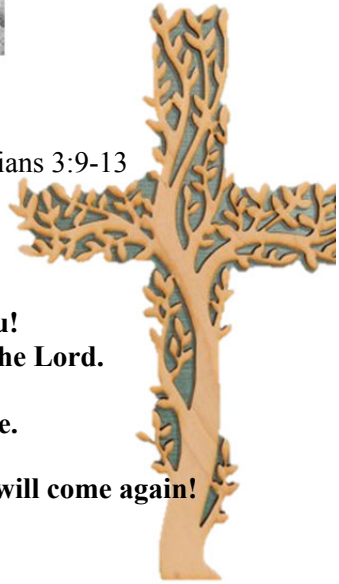




THE WORD

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Luke 21:25-36

Psalm 25
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13



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.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be 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)

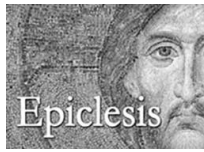
Prepare a Place

Christine Dente, Michael W. Smith

Prepare a place while you're waiting.
Prepare a place for the coming One.
Prepare a place and be patient
While you wait for the coming One.
Wait for the coming One; while you wait for the coming One.

Prepare your heart while you're waiting.
Prepare your heart for the coming One.
Set time aside and be quiet
While you wait for the coming One.
Wait for the coming One; while you wait for the coming One.

CCLI Song #4431127 ©2004 Mighty Grey Music/Lil' Yella House/Dayspring.



SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending (verse 4)

Yes, amen! Let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne.
Savior, take the pow'r and glory;
Claim the kingdom for Thine own.
O come quickly! O come quickly! Everlasting God, come down!
O come quickly! O come quickly! Everlasting God, come down!

Words: Charles Wesley and Martin Madan; based on John Cennick, 1752. Hymn tune: REGENT SQUARE Henry T. Smart, 1867. Setting ©2011 Ellen Koehler.

Benediction:

Beloved, hear and heed these words of hope as we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord:

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, and may He so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

— from 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Come quickly Lord Jesus. Maranatha!

A thought about worship...— “The spirituality of Advent calls us to start our journey in expectation of the second coming of Christ. . . . The hope of a world restored under God proclaims that evil is not the final word. . . . The second coming says that the ultimate word in history is the triumph of God, the reign of God’s kingdom, the eternal and lasting rule of the good. Here is where our Advent meditation rests.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 50).

Lectionary for next week: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

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.

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