

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
December 16, 2018



GATHERING

Let It Rise

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us. (repeat)
Let the praises of the King rise among us; let it rise.

Let the songs of the Lord rise among us. (repeat)
Let the joy of the King rise among us; let it rise.

Oh, let it rise; Oh, let it rise.

Gaudete (Rejoice!)

Antiphon:

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine, Gaudete!

(Translation: Rejoice, rejoice the Christ is born of Mary; rejoice!)

Cantor:

Time of Grace has come we've prayed, Time of Grace is on us;
Let us sing our songs of joy, songs of our salvation.

God made man in human flesh, while all nature wonders;
All is new by Christ the King, King of all the ages.

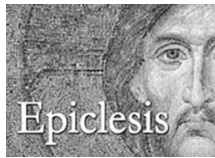
Darkness that has bound the soul, shattered with this dawning;
Where the light is shining bright salvation is calling.

Therefore let us all rejoice! Purity surrounds us.
Let us bless the Lord, our King; heav'n and earth resounding!

Traditional 16th century carol. Trans. anon;



Annunciation to the Shepherds, Jean de Limbourg, 1385



We are gathered in joyful expectation to praise and worship
the LORD, Emmanuel, the Coming One.

Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done glorious things;
Let this be known in all the earth.

*Shout aloud, and sing for joy, O people of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous;
And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!

For praise from the upright is beautiful.

We have trusted in Your lovingkindness;
Our hearts shall rejoice in Your salvation.

We will sing to the LORD,

Because He has dealt bountifully with us.

Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;

And let those who love Your salvation say continually:

“The LORD be magnified!”

– Isaiah 12:5-6; Psalms 32:11, 33:1, 13:5-6, 40:16

Holy is the Lord God Almighty

It is rising up all around, it's the anthem of the Lord's renown. (repeat)

And together we sing; Ev'ryone sing:

Chorus

Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory.

Holy is the Lord God Almighty. The earth is filled with His glory,

The earth is filled with His glory.

We stand and lift up our hands,

For the joy of the Lord is our strength.

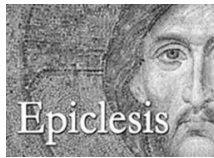
We bow down and worship Him now;

How great, how awesome is He.

Chorus

CCLI Song #4158039 ©2003 worshiptogether.com songs;

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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 Dayspring, Splendor of Eternal Light and Sun of Righteousness:
**Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

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

Text: Latin hymn, 12th century; transl. John M. Neale, 1851.
Hymn tune: VENI EMMANUEL, 15th century plainsong.



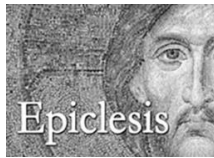
PROFESSION OF FAITH

God, who at various times and in various ways
spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,
whom He appointed heir of all things,
through whom also He made the world,
and who is the radiance of His glory
and the exact representation of His nature.

*When the fullness of time had come,
God sent forth His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
born a descendant of David according to the flesh;
born of a woman, born under the Law;
in the likeness of sinful flesh, to be an offering for our sin;
so that He might redeem us,
that we might receive adoption as His children.*

**God also highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him
the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

– from Hebrews 1:1-3; Romans 1:3, 8:3-4; Galatians 4:3-4, Philippians 2:9-11



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
on those who hope in His steadfast love.

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

For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

*Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
Even as we hope in You.*

– Psalm 33:18, 20-22

Most merciful God, always with us, always coming:

You pardon all who truly repent and turn to You.

**We confess with sadness that we have not always kept watch
for You. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have not loved You with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

[Silent confessions]

Have mercy on us, O God, in Your loving-kindness.

In Your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

**Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within
us. Restore to us the joy of our salvation and sustain us
with Your bountiful Spirit, that we may walk in Your ways
always, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

– based on Psalm 51:10-12

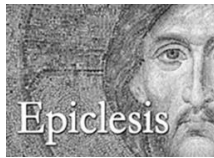
O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 4)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the great glad tidings the prophets did foretell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Public domain. Words: Philip Brooks, 1867; Music: Lewis Redner, 1868.
(Lyric alteration for Advent)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord, His faithful and true promise,
from the prophet Isaiah:



Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD.
For the LORD will comfort His people; joy and gladness will be found
in them, thanksgiving and the voice of song. And His justice will be a
light to the peoples: His salvation will be forever, and His deliverance
will never be ended.

– from Isaiah 51:1-6

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.

For the LORD GOD is my strength and my song.

Therefore with joy we draw water from the wells of salvation.

We sing, and shout aloud for joy; for great in our midst is the Holy
One of Israel!

– from Isaiah 12:2-6

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise and gratitude

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

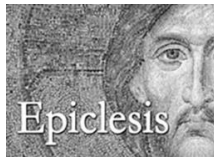
Rejoice the Lord is King; Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

Jesus, the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love.
When He had purged our stains, He took His seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Give thanks and sing: Rejoice, rejoice! The Lord is King!
The Lord is King! The Lord is King! The Lord is King!

Setting and chorus: Ellen Koehler ©2010 All Rights Reserved. Original hymn text: Charles Wesley, 1744. Original hymn tune: DARWALL'S 148th, John Darwall, 1770.



LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-17

Lighting of the candle

Prepare the way of the Lord.

We light this candle as a symbol of joy.

**May the joyful promise of Your presence, O God,
make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.
O come, O come, Emmanuel!**



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

THE WORD

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6;

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18



THE TABLE

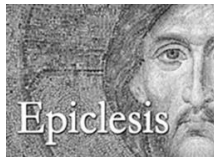
Remembering the Body of Christ

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!

Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,
Your name is holy, our Father.
Your kingdom come, and Your will be done
Here on earth as it is in heaven.



Give us, we pray, our bread for today,
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials; save us from our ancient foe!
As we sing the kingdom, we sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours –
Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

Chris Alford and Ellen Koehler . ©2014. All rights reserved.

Jesus, I am Resting

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art.
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, and Thy beauty fills my soul.
For by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.

Chorus:

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art.
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

Oh, how great Thy loving kindness, vaster, broader than the sea.
Oh, how marvelous Thy goodness lavished all on me.
Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved, know what wealth of grace is Thine;
Know Thy certainty of promise and have made it mine.

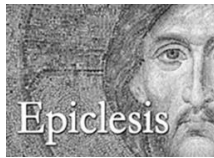
Chorus

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art.
And Thy love so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its ev'ry need,
Compasseth me 'round with blessings, this is love indeed.

Ever lift Thy face upon me as I work and wait for Thee;
Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of the Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with Thy grace.

Chorus

CCLI Song #2697066 ©1998 New Spring; Words: Jean Sophia Pigott; Music: David Hampton.



SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body

This Joy That I Have

This joy that I have, the world didn't give it to me. (3x)
The world didn't give it, and the world can't take it away.

Contemporary gospel/spiritual.

Benediction:

Beloved, hear and take these words of blessing and exhortation into your hearts, as you watch and wait with eager anticipation the coming of Christ:

Rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. So may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

– from Philippians 4:4-7

Amen.

Now, may our Lord Jesus Christ, who came once in humility and will come again in triumph and glory, fill your hearts with joyful expectation at all times, as you go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God! Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Maranatha!

A thought about worship...—“Advent is the time when God breaks in on us with new surprises and touches us with a renewing and restoring power.... We should use the Advent season as a period to identify the matters from which we need to be redeemed. Identify whatever it is that seems to be holding you in its power.... Commit it to the One who comes to set the prisoners free, turn it over to Christ in prayer, and ask the one who has come into your life to take this problem up into Himself.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004] 38, 51).

Lectionary for next week: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

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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