

An Ancient-Future Faith Community
Liturgy
December 15, 2019



GATHERING

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

Gaudete (Rejoice!)

Antiphon:

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, Gaudete!
(Translation: Rejoice, rejoice the Christ is born of Mary; rejoice!)

Cantor:

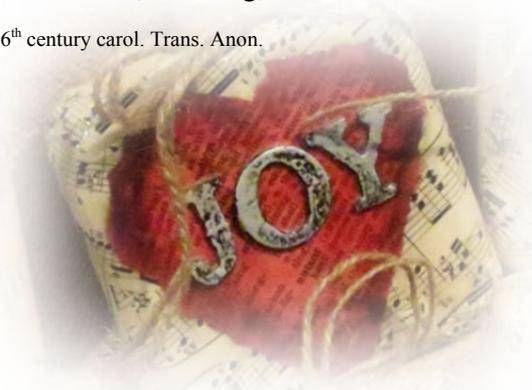
Time of Grace has come we've prayed, Time of Grace is on us;
Let us sing our songs of joy, songs of our salvation.

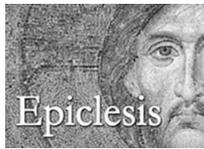
God made man in human flesh, while all nature wonders;
All is new by Christ the King, King of all the ages.

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.





**Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God:**

He made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

He keeps faith forever.

He executes justice for the oppressed, He gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers;

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the LORD!

– Psalm 146:5-10

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed;
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

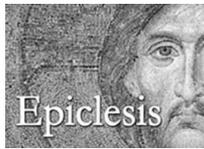
Let us rejoice! (I will rejoice!) Rejoice in Him! (I will rejoice!)
Let us rejoice! (I will rejoice!) I will rejoice! [3 times]

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays;
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

We will rejoice! (Rejoice in Him!) [3 times]
We will rejoice, we will rejoice; we will rejoice –

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.

Setting and Bridge: Ellen Koehler ©2014. Words: Henry J. van Dyke, 1907. Tune: HYMN TO JOY, from the Ninth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven, adapted by Edward Hodges, 1824.



PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

**God of all hope and joy, Open our hearts in welcome,
so that at His coming Your Son, Jesus Christ, may find in us a
dwelling prepared and ready for Him, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

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.

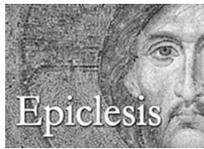
PROFESSION OF FAITH

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 being.

*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 hearts rejoice 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.**

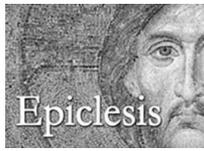
**Restore to us the joy of our salvation
and sustain us with Your bountiful Spirit,
that we may walk in Your ways always,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

– 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

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;

He has turned away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD your God, is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness;

He will renew you in his love;

He will exult over you with loud singing.

– from Zephaniah 3:14-17

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise, gratitude, and expectancy

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

And my spirit exults in God my Savior.

For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness,

And His name will be forever exalted.

For the mighty God has done great things for me,

And His mercy will reach from age to age.

And holy, holy, holy is His name.

He has mercy in ev'ry generation;

He has revealed His power and His glory.

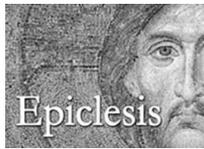
He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance,

And has lifted up the meek and the lowly.

He has come to help His servant Israel;

He remembers His promise to our fathers.

CCLI Song # 14497 ©1980 Birdwing Music; John Michael Talbot



LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Lighting of the candle



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.

Response:

O Dayspring, Splendor of Eternal Light and Sun of Righteousness:

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness

and in the shadow of death.

Come, O come, Emmanuel.



Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, Jacopo di Pontormo, 1527

THE WORD

Luke 1:46b-55

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

Passing of the Peace

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)

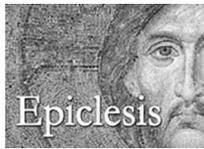
Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,

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.

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.

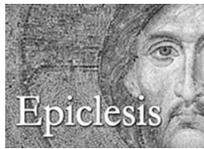
CCLI Song #2697066; ©1998 New Spring; Words by Jean Sophia Pigott; Music by David Hampton. CCLI License # 3097801

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Jesus, I am Resting (verse 4)

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.



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

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: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

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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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