

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

February 7, 2021 (Fifth Sunday of Epiphany)

GATHERING

Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power.

His understanding has no limit.

The LORD builds up His people:

He gathers in the outcasts and wanderers;

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds;

**He feeds the hungry, frees the prisoners,
and gives sight to the blind.**

He lifts up the humble and the afflicted.

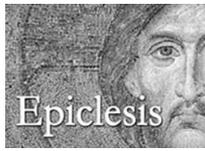
All creation declares the godness of our God:

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is great power to redeem.

— from Psalms 130:7 and 147:1-11

Come, let us lift up His praises!





Creation Sings the Father's Song

Creation sings the Father's song;
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day,
Till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow;
His breath upon this spinning globe;
He charts the eagle's flight,
Commands the newborn baby's cry.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing:
"Hallelujah!" Fill the earth with songs of worship,
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

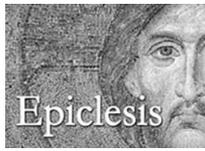
Creation gazed upon His face;
The ageless One in time's embrace,
Unveiled the Father's plan
Of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
Whose blameless life would break the curse,
Whose death would set us free
To live with Him eternally.

Creation longs for His return,
When Christ shall reign upon the earth;
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky,
All heav'n will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme:
The glory of our God and King!

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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



Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God, and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of man:
Glory and honor, praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Anonymous German hymn *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; Transl. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873.
Hymn tune: CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842.
Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We give thanks with joy to the Father, who has qualified us
to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

**For He has rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

The Son is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.

**In Him all things in the heavens and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities –
all things were created through Him and for Him.**

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

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

And although we were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged
in evil deeds, yet now He has reconciled us in His fleshly body
through death, in order to present us before Him holy and blameless
and beyond reproach.

**God has made known to us the riches of the glory of this mystery:
Christ in us, the hope of glory.**

– from Colossians 1:12-27



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,
on those who hope in His steadfast love,
that He may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

*The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
in those who hope in His steadfast love.*

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

– from Psalm 147:11 and 33:18-22

Everlasting and loving God, You stooped down to raise and restore
fallen humanity, and showed us Your heart for Your world in the Word
made flesh. Yet too often we fail to live as Your redeemed followers.

[Silence]

**We confess to You and to one another, and to the whole
communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned
against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our
whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Have mercy on us. **Accept our repentance, and accomplish in us the
work of Your salvation, that we may show forth Your glory in the
world; through our victorious Christ, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 faithful promise of His love and deliverance:



The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
My God, my strength, in whom I take refuge;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
*I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;
And I am saved from my enemies.*

In my distress I called upon the LORD; and cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears. He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As far as the east is from the west, so far He removes our transgressions from us.

– Psalms 18:2-3, 6, 19; 103:8, 12

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise:

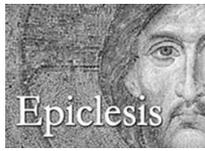
What A Beautiful Name

You were the Word at the beginning,
One with God, the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You, our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is; nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us,
So, Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great; Your love was greater.
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a wonderful Name it is; nothing compares to this:
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.



Death could not hold You; the veil tore before You.
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory,
For You are raised to life again.

You have no rival, You have no equal;
Now and forever, God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory;
Yours is the Name above all names.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is; nothing can stand against;
What a powerful Name it is: the Name of Jesus.

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THE WORD

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 18:27-36

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.

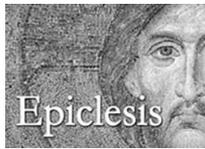
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again!





The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever. Amen**

Blessèd Be the Name

His name above all names shall stand,
Exalted more and more,
At God's the Father's own right hand,
Where angel hosts adore.

Refrain

Blessèd be the name! Blessèd be the name!
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!
Blessèd be the name! Blessèd be the name!
Blessèd be the name of the Lord!

Redeemer, Savior, Friend of man once ruined by the fall;
Thou hast devised salvation's plan, for Thou hast died for all.

His name shall be the Counselor, the mighty Prince of Peace,
Of all earth's kingdoms Conqueror, whose reign shall never cease.

Words: William H. Clark; refrain by Ralph E. Hudson. Hymn tune: Ralph E Hudson, 1888.
Setting: ©2018 Ellen Koehler.

SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Creation Sings the Father's Song (refrain)

Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing:
“Hallelujah!” Fill the earth with songs of worship,
Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Benediction:

Now, we go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord. And as we go, let this be the prayer of faith that encourages and sustains us:

May we be made strong
with all the strength that comes from His glorious power,
filled with the knowledge of His will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding;
that we may lead lives worthy of the Lord,
fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work,
and growing in the knowledge of God.

Amen! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

– based on Colossians 1:9-11

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“How can someone doubt God's presence and help who has experienced various dangers and has been saved from them by His simple nod, who has passed through the sea that the Savior calmed and that supplied a solid road for the people? I believe that finding miracles like these performed and perfected at God's command is the foundation of faith and the basis for confidence. Therefore, even in the midst of trials there is no reason to turn from our faith. But we have an unshaken hope in God. When this habit of confidence is firmly rooted in the soul, God Himself will dwell in our deepest thoughts. His power can't be overcome. Therefore the soul in which He dwells won't be overcome by dangers surrounding it. We see this truth demonstrated in God's own victory. While He intended to bless humanity, He was severely insulted by malicious, ungodly people. However, He suffered through His passion unharmed and gained a mighty victory over sin and an everlasting crown of triumph. Therefore He accomplished His providential purpose, loved the righteous, and destroyed the cruelty of the unrighteous.” – Eusebius

Image credit. p. 1: Jah Pickney, “They Shall Mount Up on Wings Like Eagles, contemp.”

Lectionary for next week: 2 Kings 1:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

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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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