

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

March 27, 2022 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

GATHERING

We are gathered to worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates and sustains us.

He has made us new creations in Christ:

The old has passed away; behold, all things become new!
*Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
How blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD;
All creation declares the goodness of our God!*

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

I waited patiently for the LORD;

And He inclined to me, and heard my cry.

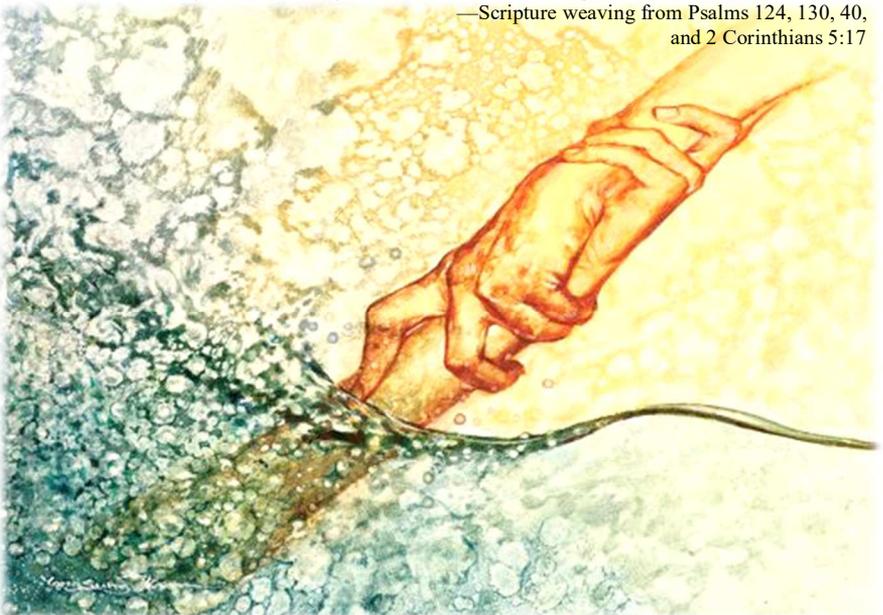
**He brought me up out of a pit of destruction, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my footsteps firm.**

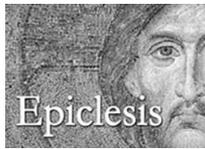
He put a new song in my mouth: Praise to our God!

Many will see and fear, and will trust in the LORD.

Let all who seek the LORD rejoice in Him; let those who love His
salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!"

—Scripture weaving from Psalms 124, 130, 40,
and 2 Corinthians 5:17





You Are Beautiful

Source of life to wood and stream,
Sovereign Lord and gentle King,
More than we could ever dream:
You are beautiful.
Father to the fatherless,
Healer of our brokenness,
How You fill our emptiness:
You are beautiful.

Jesus, You are beautiful;
There is none to compare with You.
Jesus, You are beautiful;
And you show Your love to me,
And it gives me grace to see:
You are everything my heart desires.
You are beautiful.

Son of God upon a cross,
Tasting death for all of us,
Reaching out when we were lost:
You are beautiful.
Risen Lamb upon the throne,
Roaring Lion coming soon,
Every eye will see it's true:
You are beautiful.

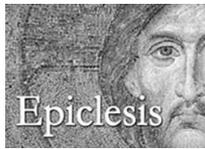
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.



This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song:
Praising my Savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873. Hymn tune: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in these words from the second epistle of the Apostle Paul
to the Corinthians:

We believe that Christ died for all,
so that we who live
might no longer live for ourselves,
but for Him who for our sake died
and was raised again.

*Therefore, since we are in Christ,
we are new creations;
the old has passed away;
behold, all things have become new.*

Now all these things are from God,
who reconciled us to Himself through Christ
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation –
*That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself,
not counting their trespasses against them –*

And He has entrusted to us
the word of reconciliation.

*God made Him who knew no sin
to be sin on our behalf,
so that we might become
the righteousness of God in Him.*

– from 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!



PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Blessed are those

whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are those

*whose sin the LORD does not count against them,
and in whose spirit is no deceit.*

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

**Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my
iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
And You forgave the guilt of my sin.**

– Psalm 32:1-6a

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to You.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, **we have sinned against You and
against others, in thought and word and deed, through negligence,
through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly
sorry, and repent of all our sins.**

[Silence]

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive
us, that we may walk in Your ways in newness of life, and worship You
in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
God, the well-spring of life.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord; His promises are trustworthy and true:
I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

**You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with songs of deliverance.**

*Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but those who trust in the LORD,
lovingkindness will surround them.*

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;
and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

– from Psalm 32:7-11

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Breathing the Breath

We have nothing to give that didn't first come from Your hands.
We have nothing to offer You which You did not provide.
Every good perfect gift comes from Your kind and gracious heart;
And all we do is give back to You what always has been Yours.

Chorus

Lord, we're breathing the breath that You gave us to breathe
To worship You, to worship You.
And we're singing these songs with the very same breath
To worship You, to worship You.

Who has given to You that it should be paid back to him?
Who has given to You as if You needed anything?
From You and to You and through You come all things, O Lord;
And all we do is give back to You what always has been Yours.

Bridge:

We are breathing the breath
That You gave us to breathe (repeat)

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THE WORD

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Softly and Tenderly

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home;
You who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home.

Will L. Thompson, 1880.

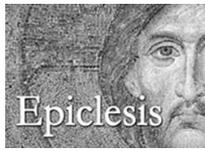
THE TABLE

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.**

Beneath the Cross

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I find a place to stand;
And wonder at such mercy, that calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me, hold wounds which tell me,
“Come.”
Beneath the cross of Jesus, my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, His fam'ly is my own.
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams, now one, through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor the ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus, see the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown,
We follow in His footsteps, where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us to be His perfect bride.
Beneath the cross of Jesus, we will gladly live our lives.

CCLI Song #4610917 ©2005 Thankyou Music. Keith and Kristyn Getty.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Hymn tune: OLD 100TH (attributed to Louis Bourgeois), 1551. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674.
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Benediction:

Beloved brothers and sisters, as you go forth into the world to live out your baptisms, be encouraged to observe a holy Lent. As Christ's faithful disciples, walking in His own footsteps and taking on His likeness, may your eyes and ears be open to know the calling of the Lord at all times. **Amen.**

May you have the strength to walk the path of obedience, the strength to participate with Christ in His purposes for the world, and the strength to persevere – with joy – in your calling. **Amen!**

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that we can ask or imagine, according to the power that works within us:
**To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, forever and ever. Amen! Thanks be to God!**

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“There are some who, like worms wallowing in marshes and mud, feed on foolish and useless pleasures. People are like pigs. For pigs, it is said, like mud better than pure water. Let us not, then, be enslaved or become like pigs. Instead, as true children of the light, let us raise our eyes and look at light, lest the Lord discover us to be superficial. Therefore, let us repent and move from ignorance to knowledge, from foolishness to wisdom, from self-indulgence to self-restraint, from unrighteousness to righteousness, from godlessness to God. By striving toward God, one shows noble daring. The enjoyment of many good things is within the reach of those who love righteousness and who pursue eternal life, especially those things which God alludes to in Isaiah. He says, ‘There is an inheritance for those who serve the Lord.’ Noble and desirable is this inheritance, not gold, not silver, not clothing, that the moths destroy, nor things of earth that robbers attack because they are dazzled by worldly wealth. Instead, it is the treasure of salvation which we must hurry to by becoming lovers of the Word. Then praiseworthy works will descend to us and fly with us on the wing of truth. This is the inheritance God grants us with His eternal covenant, conveying the everlasting gift of grace.

Consequently, our loving Father—the true Father—never stops urging, admonishing, training, or loving us.”

– Clement of Alexandria

Image credit – p. 6: Daniel Bonnell, *The Father's Forgiveness*, 2005.

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

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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