

An Ancient-Future Faith Community  
*Liturgy*  
December 18, 2022  
Fourth Sunday of Advent (Peace)

*The Joy of the Lord*

The joy of the Lord is my strength; in You will I find my rest.  
The joy of the Lord is my strength; in You will I find my hope.  
The joy of the Lord is my strength; in You will I find my love.  
The joy of the Lord is my strength; in You will I find my peace.  
In You will I find my rest.

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GATHERING

Show us Your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,  
**and grant us Your salvation.**

Listen to what the LORD our God says:  
**He promises peace to His people,  
who are His beloved saints.**

The LORD will indeed give what is good.

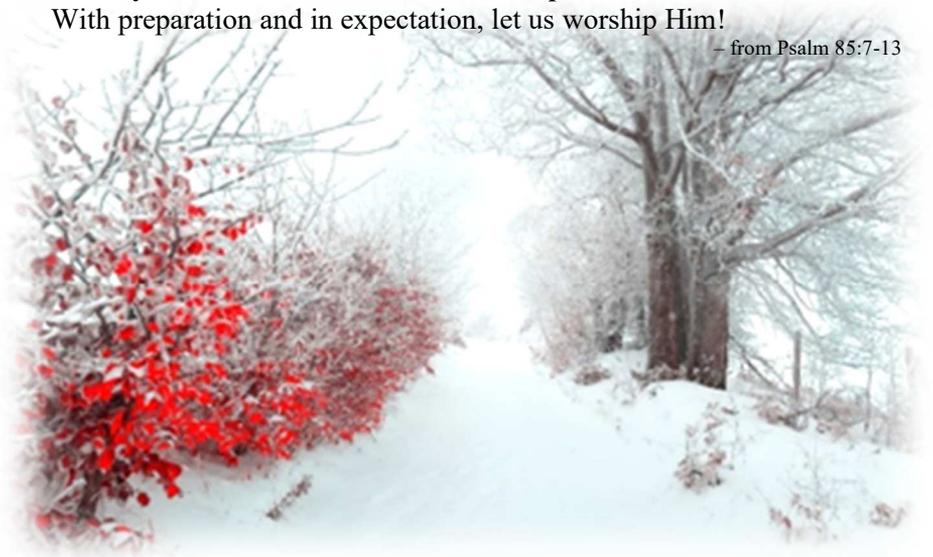
Righteousness will go before Him  
and shall make His footsteps our pathway.

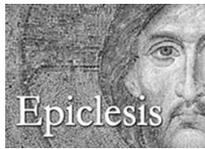
**May the LORD make His holy face to shine upon us.**

**May we see God's face and so know peace.**

With preparation and in expectation, let us worship Him!

– from Psalm 85:7-13





*Long Ago, Prophets Knew*

Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
Come to make all things new,  
Bear his people's burden,  
Freely love and pardon.  
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!  
When He comes, when He comes,  
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,  
This is God's timeless plan;  
He will come, as a man,  
Born himself of woman;  
God divinely human.  
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!  
When He comes, when He comes,  
Who will make him welcome?

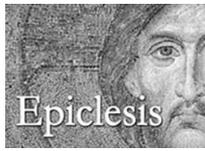
Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
She believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid  
Till the time expected,  
Nurtured and protected.  
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!  
When He comes, when He comes,  
Who will make him welcome?



Tune: PERSONENT HODIE, 1582, arr. Gustav Holst. Public domain.  
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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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



God of eternity,

with expectant hearts we Your people await Christ's coming.

**As once He came in humility, so now may He come in glory,  
that He, the Prince of Peace, may make all things perfect  
in Your everlasting kingdom. For He is Lord for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

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

Text: Latin hymn, 12<sup>th</sup> century; transl. John M. Neale, 1851.

Hymn tune: VENI EMMANUEL, 15<sup>th</sup> century plainsong.

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us speak together the words of Paul  
as he declared the Advent of the Prince of Peace:

**We are set apart for the gospel of God,  
which He promised beforehand through His prophets  
in the holy scriptures –**

**The gospel concerning His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who was descended from David according to the flesh,  
and was declared to be the Son of God with power  
according to the Spirit of holiness,  
by the resurrection from the dead.**

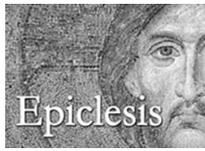
**In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through Him God was pleased to reconcile all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood of His cross.**

**For He Himself is our peace.**

To all God's beloved, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

– Romans 1:1-7; Colossians 1:19-20; Ephesians 2:14



## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
You who lead Joseph like a flock.  
*You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!*  
**Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us Your salvation.**

[Silence]

Come, and restore us, LORD God Almighty;  
**make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

[Silent confessions]

Come, and restore us, LORD God Almighty;  
**make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

– texts from Psalms 80:1-3, 19; 85:7

## *Send Out Your Light*

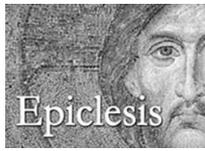
Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;  
Send them that they may guide us.  
Lord, may they bring us into Your courts,  
To the heart of Your dwelling places.

Send out Your light, Lord, send out Your truth;  
Send them that they may guide us.  
Come, and restore us, Lord God of Hosts;  
Make Your face shine upon us,  
That we may be saved.

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Words based on Psalms 43:4, 84:1-2, and 80:19.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for He has looked favorably on His people, and redeemed them.



God has raised up a mighty Savior from the house of David.

He has shown the mercy promised to our fathers,  
and remembered His holy covenant.

*In the tender compassion of our God,  
the Dayspring from on high has come to us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

– from Luke 1:68-79

**Thanks be to God!**

#### TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of praise, gratitude, and hope

#### *O Children Come*

Hear the cry from Bethlehem: “O children, come!”  
Son of God now born to men: “O children, come!”  
Bring your troubles, bring your fears;  
Bring the needs that draw you near.  
Find the hope of all the years:  
“O children, come! O children, come!”

Peace on earth, good will to men: “O children, come!”  
Righteous rule that will not end: “O children, come!”  
Lay down all our bitterness;  
Turn from sin’s toil and distress;  
Find His grace and perfect rest.  
“O children, come! O children, come!”

Where the Father’s grace has walked: “O children, come!”  
Where you see the hurt and lost: “O children, come!”  
Show the mercy shown to you;  
Gifts of kindness to renew;  
Love from hearts sincere and true;  
“O children, come! O children, come!”

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## LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Lighting of the candle

We light this candle as a symbol of peace.

*May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God,  
purify us, that we may be ready for the coming of Jesus,  
our hope, joy, and peace.*

O King and Desire of the nations,  
Cornerstone that binds them into one:

**Come, and deliver us whom You formed out of the dust  
of the earth to be a people for Yourself.**

Come. O come, Emmanuel!



## THE WORD

Matthew 1:18-25

## 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.

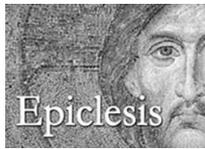
**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again!**





*The Lord's Prayer* (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heav'n.  
Provide each day our daily needs;  
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom,  
Forever and ever;  
And Thine is the power,  
Forever and ever;  
And Thine is the glory,  
Now and forever. Amen, amen, amen.



Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Let all mortal flesh keep\* silence, and with fear and trembling\* stand;  
Ponder nothing worldly\* minded, for with blessing in His\* hand  
Christ our Lord to earth descend\*-eth, our full homage to de\*-mand.

King of kings, yet born of\* Mary, as of old on earth He\* stood.  
Lord of lords in human\* nature, in the body and the\* blood.  
He will give to all the faith\*-ful His own self for heav'nly\* food.

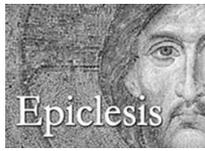
Rank on rank the host of\* heaven spreads its vanguard on the\* way,  
As the Light of light des\*-cendeth from the realms of endless\* day;  
That the powers of hell may van\*-ish as the darkness clears a\*-way.

At His feet the six-wingèd seraph, cherubim with sleepless\* eye,  
Veil their faces to the\* Presence, as with ceaseless voice they\* cry:  
“Alleluia, Allelu\*-ia, Alleluia, Lord most\* high!”

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SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body



*Long Ago, Prophets Knew (verse 4)*

Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethl'hem shines, like a star,  
Stable door stands ajar,  
Unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry!  
Ring bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes, we will make him welcome!

**Benediction:**

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

**Amen.**

And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely,  
and preserve you complete and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

— based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

*A thought about worship...* “Advent is a time to review once again where our faith is placed and how our lives are lived. Trust in Jesus is not merely a onetime act but a continuous state of being, a moment-by-moment existence in Christ. It is a daily turning from a life lived for self to a life lived in tune with the power of the Spirit who continually calls us to be like Jesus.” (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 52).

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**Lectionary for next week:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

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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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