

An Ancient-Future Faith Community

Liturgy

January 1, 2023 (Second Sunday of Christmastide)

GATHERING

Lord, open our lips;

And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be ages unto ages.
Amen.**

Come, let us worship the LORD

and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the LORD

and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The peoples who dwelt in darkness have seen a great Light!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

O come, let us worship the LORD

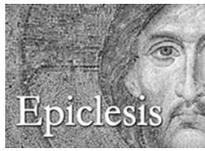
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**Christ, the Word made flesh, unveils to us God's hidden mystery,
that we have become joint heirs of the promise of salvation!**

O come, let us worship the LORD,

for God has done wondrous things!





Here I Am to Worship

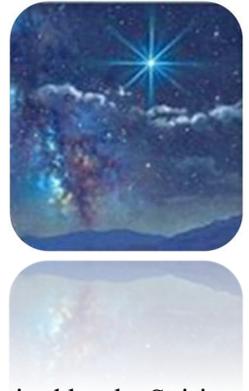
Light of the world, You stepped out into darkness,
Opened my eyes let me see:
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus:

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted;
Glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

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PRAYERS OF ADORATION, INVOCATION AND THANKS

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

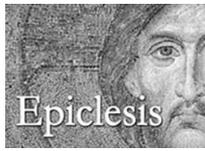
As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed;
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
So, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav'nly King.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2014. Words: William C. Dix, 1860.
Hymn tune: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.**

All things came into being through Him,
and apart from Him nothing came into being
that has come into being.

*In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.
The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,
and the world did not know Him.

*He came to His own,
and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

But as many as received Him,
to them He gave the right to become children of God,
even to those who believe in His name,
who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh,
nor of the will of man, but of God.

**And the Word became flesh,
and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,
glory as of the only begotten from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

*From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
For the law was given through Moses,
but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

**No one has seen God at any time;
the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father,
He has made Him known.**

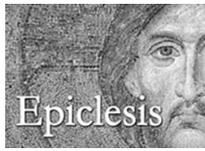
— from John 1:1-18

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord; so that He might redeem us,
that we might receive adoption as His children.

*According to His own mercy,
He saved us, and justified us by His grace,
that we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

— from Galatians 4:4-5, Titus 3:5-7



[Silence]

Everlasting and loving God, You stooped down to raise and restore fallen humanity. Yet too often we fail to live as Your redeemed people.

We confess that we have sinned against You and against others, in what we have done and what we have left undone.

Forgive us, we pray.

Grant that we who have seen Your glory revealed in human nature, and Your love made perfect in weakness, may daily be renewed in Your image and conformed to the pattern of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Blest are the Pure in Heart

The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men, their Pattern and their King.

Still to the lowly soul He doth Himself impart;
And for His cradle and His throne, chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek; may this our blessing be:
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.
Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee.

Words: John Keble (1819); *Mitre Hymn Book* (1836). Music: Ellen Koehler ©2013.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The word of the Lord, the good news of His salvation:

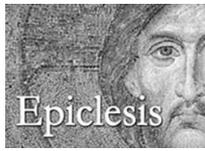
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love!

He destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace that He lavished on us.

– Ephesians 1:3-8

Thanks be to God!



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus
'Twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers
And shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven
A star's light did fall,
And the promise of the ages
It did then recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King.

Appalachian carol. Text and music: John Jacob Miles,
from a folksong fragment collected in 1933.
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2012.

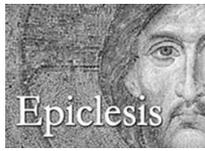


Fairest Lord Jesus

Fair is the sunshine; fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

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. Music:
CRUSADER'S HYMN, Silesian folk tune, *Schleische Volkslieder*, 1842. Setting: Ellen Koehler. ©2010



THE WORD

Matthew 2:1-12



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,

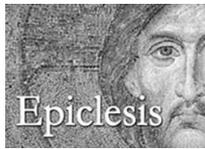
But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

And the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen





O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

O sing a song of Bethlehem,
Of shepherds watching there;
And of the news that came to them
From angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
The angels sing always.

O sing a song of Nazareth,
Of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
And of the sinless Boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth
In every heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of His dear name
On all the winds that blow.

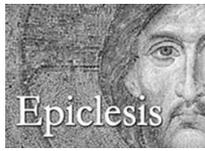
O sing a song of Galilee,
Of lake and woods and hill,
Of Him who walked upon the sea
And bade the waves be still;
For though like waves on Galilee,
Dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word,
Falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
Of Him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.
For He who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

Words: Louis F. Benson, 1899. Hymn tune: KINGSFOLD,
arr. Ellen Koehler ©2019.



SENDING FORTH
The Life of the Body



Angels From the Realms of Glory

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Traditional French carol tune. Words: James Montgomery, 1816.

Benediction:

O God, who in Jesus Christ
called us out of darkness into marvelous light,
enable us always to declare Your wonderful deeds,
thank You for your steadfast love,
and praise You with heart, soul, mind, and strength,
now and forever.

Blessed are You, God of light!

**Shine in our lives with the light of Christ,
that we might give You praise through Him
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit
now and forever. Amen.**

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

A thought about worship from the Ancient Fathers –

“In this way marvel was linked to marvel: the Magi were worshiping, the star was going before them. All this is enough to captivate a heart made of stone. If it had been only the wise men or only the prophets or only the angels who had said these things, it might have been disbelieved. But now with all this confluence of varied evidence, even the most skeptical mouths are stopped.” – Chrysostom

Image credits – p. 5: Linda McCray, *The True Light*, contemp.; p. 6: Mike Moyers, *Journey of the Magi*, 2014, mikemoyersfineart.com; Rick Asche, photo of Epiclesis Table, 2019.

Lectionary for next week: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Epiclesis: An Ancient-Future Faith Community

www.Epiclesis.org | Info line: (916)572-9113

Text the word **Epiclesis** to 22828 to sign up for our weekly eNewsletter

Text the word **Connect** to (916)347-5038 to join our text alert list.

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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