



# ANCIENT-FUTURE FAITH NETWORK

Fourth Annual Gathering

*Closing Worship*

June 3, 2015

GATHERING

Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned on high?

*You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them.*

Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned on high?

*But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

Who is like You, O LORD our God: enthroned on high;  
Majestic in holiness, awesome in praises?

– from Psalm 113:5, Hebrews 12:18-24, Exodus 15:11

You are God; we praise You!

*You are the Lord; we acclaim You!*

You are the Eternal Father: All creation worships You!

**To You all angels, all the powers of heaven, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Jud of Witnesses, Martin Evans, 2010

– from *Te Deum laudamus* (“Thee, O God, we praise”).  
A hymn of the early church, fourth century.  
Attributed to church fathers Ambrose and Augustine.



## *Holy*

I will lift my voice, and I will sing,  
I will sing holy, holy.  
To my Lord and Savior, my God and King:  
I will sing holy, holy

### *Chorus:*

I will praise the Lamb of God who sits upon the throne.  
I will worship Him, and give the praise to Him alone.  
He who was and is and is to come:  
I will sing before His throne forever, forever.

All the angels sing, and they bow down, and they sing holy, holy.  
We, Your sons and daughters, we praise You now:  
And we cry holy, holy.

### *Chorus*

Holy, holy; Holy, holy . . .

Donnie McClurkin. ©2003 Seven Summits Music and Don Mac Music.

## INVOCATION

Prayers of welcome and praise

### *A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing*

A hymn of glory let us sing;  
New songs throughout the world shall ring.  
Christ, by a road before untrod  
Ascendeth to the throne of God.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to Thee let earth accord.  
Who art, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit One.

O grant us thitherward to tend, and with unwearied hearts ascend,  
Unto Thy kingdom's throne, where Thou  
As is our faith, art seated now.

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735), *Hymnum canamus Domino*; translated from Latin to English by Benjamin Webb, 1854. Hymn tune: JAM LUCIS ORTO SIDERE, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.  
Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2013.



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us continue our profession of faith and praise,  
in the words of this hymn of the ancient church:

The glorious company of apostles praises you.

*The noble fellowship of prophets praises you.*

The white-robed army of martyrs praises you.

**Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim You;**

Father of majesty unbounded,

*Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,*

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

**You, Christ, are the King of glory,**

the eternal Son of the Father.

*When You became man to set us free*

*You did not shun the Virgin's womb.*

You overcame the sting of death,

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

**You are seated at God's right hand in glory.**

**We believe that you will come and be our judge.**

Leader:

Come then, Lord, and help Your people,

bought with the price of Your own blood,

and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting.

– from *Te Deum laudamus*

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Behold what love the Father has given us, that we should be called  
the children of God; and that is what we are.

*Beloved, we are God's children now;*

*what we will be has not yet been revealed.*

What we know is this: when He is revealed,

we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

*And all who have this hope in Him purify themselves,*

*just as He is pure.*

– from 1 John 3:1-3

[Silence]



Most holy and loving God, **You have called us to join Your story, and to take our places in the unbroken stream of Your faithful saints throughout the ages. We have joyfully accepted Your invitation. Yet too often we have wandered from Your path. We have not always remained faithful, to You or to each other. We have not always been persistent in the tasks You have given us, and too often have been slow to acknowledge Your authority. In Your infinite mercy, forgive us and renew us, that we may walk always in Your ways, and fulfill our purpose in You to the glory of Your name.**

*Agnus Dei (Canticle 20)*

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer.

For You alone are Lord Most High, the Holy One, our heav'nly King.  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

You alone are Lord Most High, the Holy One, our heav'nly King.  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.  
Almighty God and Father. Amen.

Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.  
Based on the ancient hymn text, Gloria in excelsis ("*Glory to God in the highest*")

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God demonstrates His own love for us in this:

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**We give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.**

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

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

– from Romans 5:8 and Colossians 1:12-20



TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

**In gratitude, we bring these our offerings as a sign of love, devotion, and worship. Through them, just as through our words and songs of praise, we acknowledge Your sovereignty and faithfulness.**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;  
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.  
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for my fight,  
Thou my whole armor, and Thou my true might.  
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower.  
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance now and always.  
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;  
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Setting: Ellen Koehler ©2009 Ancient Irish Hymn (SLANE); trans. Mary Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.



## THE WORD

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.

**By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made of things which are visible.**

*By faith, the ancients gained approval from God, for without faith it is impossible to please Him.*

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises. But having seen them, they believed and welcomed them from a distance.

*Abel; Enoch; Noah; Abraham; Sarah; Isaac; Jacob; Joseph; Moses; Rahab; David; Samuel; the judges and the prophets – all believed God.*

**They considered Him faithful who had promised.**

By faith they esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt.

*Through faith they worked righteousness,  
out of weakness were made strong,  
persevered through adversity and opposition,  
became valiant in battle, and endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.*

All these, although they had gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

*Because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.*

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us. And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

– from Hebrews 11:1 – 12:2

## 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.**





*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.

*We Behold You (Fraction Anthem)*

James R. Hart

With all of the saints and angels, we gather before You.  
Our hearts filled with thankfulness, we lift up Your holy Name.  
With all who have gone before us, we feast at Your table.  
We eat of Your body and drink of Your holy blood.

And we behold You, and we behold You:  
Lamb of God, slain for our sins. (Repeat)

*Revelation Song*

Jennie Lee Riddle

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; holy, holy is He.  
Sing a new song to Him who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

*Chorus*

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was and is and is to come;  
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;  
You are my ev'rything, and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color,  
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;  
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power  
Be to You, the only wise King.

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, at the mention of Your name;  
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,  
Such a marv'ulous mystery.



## SENDING FORTH

### The Life of the Body

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Public domain. Words: Reginald Heber, 1826; Music: John B. Dykes, 1861

### Benediction:

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that Your people, illumined by Your word and Table, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory. **Amen.**

And as we go forth, walking out our baptisms, and looking forward to the day when we see Him as He is, may He grant that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

**Amen! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*A thought about worship...*— “Worship does God’s story. It proclaims God’s story in the reading and preaching of the Word; in prayer, the church prays for the world God has reclaimed; in the Eucharist, the church ascends into the heavens and experiences the consummation of God’s story in the new heavens and the new earth.” (Robert E. Webber, *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006], 233.)

Prayer of confession adapted and reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook*, ©2004 CRC Publications.

Table Songs: *We Behold You (Fraction Anthem)*. James R. Hart, ©1996 Ecclesia Music Publishing; *Revelation Song*. Jennie Lee Riddle, ©2004 Gateway Create Publishing, CCLI Song #4447960.



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