

Litanies and Reflections based on Bible Themes

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Jonah's Call (2003)

The Voice calling long ago.

The Voice calling today.

The Voice compelling Jonah to go.

The Voice compelling us to go.

The Voice calling to Jonah
compelling him to share the good news
of God's redemptive love.

**The Voice calling to us
compelling us to share the good news
of God's redemptive love.**

With those who would be enemies.

With those who would be enemies.

The people of Nineveh, beloved of God.

The people of Iraq, beloved of God.

The Voice calling long ago.

The Voice calling today.

Micah 4:3 - see Isaiah 2:4

Micah 5 - see Zephaniah 3- Advent Prayer

Joel 3:10 - see Isaiah 2:4

Joel 2:28-29 and "Send Down Your Spirit" (Marty
Haugen)

Call to Worship

Then I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, thus
says the Lord.

Send down the fire of your justice!

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Send down the rain of your love!

Your old shall dream dreams,
and your young shall see visions.

**Send down your Spirit, breathe life in your
people!**

In those days, I will pour out my spirit.

And we shall be people of God.

Communal Confession

The Spirit comes with fire of justice
and we offer the extinguisher of complacency.

Lord have mercy,

Lord have mercy,

Lord have mercy upon us.

The Spirit comes with the rain of love
And we offer an umbrella of reserve.

Christ have mercy,

Christ have mercy,

Christ have mercy upon us.

The Spirit comes
bearing fresh winds of change
and we close the windows.

Lord have mercy,

Lord have mercy,

Lord have mercy upon us.

Invitation to Pardon

Hear the great good news of our faith:

The Spirit is alive!

Breathe, children of God,

breathe the fresh winds of the Spirit.

Taste, children of God,

taste the quenching waters of God's love.

Touch, children of God,

touch the heat of God's passion for justice.

Habakkuk 2:1-4

Invocation

Write the vision,

make it plain

so that it may be read.

For there is still a vision

it speaks of the day of the Lord

and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry,

Wait;

For surely it will come.

Litany of Confession and Assurance

For ignoring the vision

breathed by the living Spirit

churning deep within our souls;

Lord have mercy,

Lord have mercy,

Have mercy upon us.

For refusing to look at the vision

alive within those

who look or act or sound different from us;

Christ have mercy,

Christ have mercy,

Have mercy upon us.

For choosing familiarity, ease, and comfort

rather than risking the opportunities

afforded in the vision

Lord have mercy,

Lord have mercy,

Have mercy upon us.

Invitation to Pardon

If the vision seems to tarry

wait for it;

it will surely come...

it will surely come...

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Zephaniah 3 (2003) and Jeremiah 33, Baruch 5, and
Micah 5 - Advent Prayer

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. (Zephaniah 3:17-18)

Yet ours is an upside down victory.

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jeremiah 33:15)

Ours is a story of power in humility.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

(Baruch 5:7)

Ours is a story of strength in vulnerability.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

(Micah 5:4-5)

**Ours is a story of a baby deemed king,
of a carpenter's son praying alone,
of a Roman execution.**

The Lord, our God, is in our midst.

May we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Amen.

Baruch 5 - see Zephaniah 3 - Advent Prayer