



ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Waiting on God and Waiting Together



Newbury, St George & St John

Welcome to Advent Reflections with St George the Martyr, Wash Common and St. John the Evangelist, Newbury.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the coming of Christ, and also looks ahead to the fulfilment of God's purposes. The Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year and the natural symbols of darkness and light are power reminders of the presence of God dwells in the darkest of places.

The focus of waiting asks us some deeper questions; What are we waiting for? And what can we do in this waiting time? Waiting, can be passive, but it can also be active.

Our Advent reflections, will be using Taize style music, making use of silences and repetitive meditative songs to deepen our awareness of God. Do join this quiet act of worship, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

Waiting... in Wonder.

Cover Image; Unsplash, Jon Tyson



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The Greeting

The officiant says:

In our waiting, together, may we wonder on God's love for us, at this special time of Advent.

Welcome & Introduction

The officiant says:

Come Holy Spirit,
help us to wonder at God's love,
to wait upon God's word
and to act with compassion,
That God's Kingdom might be on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

The officiant says:

Come to us this Advent, O God,
Come to us in the silence.
Speak to us this Advent, O God,
Speak to us through the mouths of others.
Wait with us this Advent, O God,
Wait with us in love.

Following Christ with a steadfast heart does not mean lighting up fireworks that flare up brightly and then go out. It means setting out, and then remaining, on a road of trust that can last our whole life.

Brother Roger of Taizé

Prayer of Penitence

Forgive us O God when we are not patient in waiting
Forgive us Lord, when we lack trust and our faith is questioned

Forgive us Jesus, when we wander off the road or do not set out at all
Holy Spirit guide us into all truth, to wonder at your creation and help us to wait and watch with you this Advent tide.

Amen.

Music

O Lord, hear my prayer ♪

The story of Abraham and Sarah ... Called to Wait—a lifetime of waiting.

The Word of God

First reading

Genesis 15 1-6; 8

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'

* And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,.

Short Reflection and a period of silence

Music

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful ♪

The Word of God

Second reading Psalm 62. 1-6

For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

3 How long will you assail a person,
will you batter your victim, all of you,
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

4 Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.
They take pleasure in falsehood;
they bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.

5 For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.

6 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Poem

Music **Stay here with me** ♪

Prayers of Intercession

The response below may be used at the end of each bidding.

Be with us Lord, **in our waiting.**

Special Prayer said in Advent

Eternal God,
as Mary waits for the birth of your Son
so we wait for his coming glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

Closing Responses

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Amen.



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