



ADVENT REFLECTIONS with Poetry and Music
Preparing to Wait



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, Brett Jordan



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The Greeting

The officiant says:

Lord Jesus, light of the world, in our waiting, 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.

Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us all in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!

Pope Francis Angelus December 2017

Heavenly Father,
you call us to prepare for the coming of your Son:
forgive us our unreadiness to receive him.

Lord Jesus,
you were proclaimed by John the Baptist:
help us also to prepare your way.

Holy Spirit,
you speak through the prophets:
make us attentive to hear your word.

**Lord have mercy and help us to wait and watch with you this
Advent tide. Amen.**

Music O Lord, hear my prayer ♪

The Word of God

First reading Isaiah 40. 3-8

A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
 and all people shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!'
 And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
 their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Music **Bless the Lord my Soul** ♪

Short Reflection and period of silence

The Word of God

Second reading Psalm 40.1-6

I waited patiently for the Lord; *
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the mire and clay; *
he set my feet upon a rock, making my footing sure.

He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; *
many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, *
who does not turn to the proud, that follow a lie.

Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.
How great your designs for us! *
There is none can be compared with you.

If I were to proclaim them and tell them *
they would be more than I am able to express.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire *
but my ears have been opened.

Poem “Attentive Presence “

An extract from the work of Carla Grosch-Millar entitled...

*I quiet my worried, despairing heart
and I wait.*

The Holy one draws near.

*I feel myself drawn to a single point;
All of life collapses into a timeless moment.
(I breathe)*

*Happy are we who find ourselves in God,
Who wait and listen,
Who set aside distraction
And see behind the surface satisfaction.*

*Nothing can compare with the external glimmer,
With the whole held in tender hands.
Depths and heights clasp glory;
A whisper of wonder binds all in all.*

*An opened heart is the divine desire,
Attentive presence is all I have to give
And all You want.
I open the book of my days and
I recognize you on every page.*

Music

Adoramus te, Domine ♪

Prayers

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

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

Chant: Wait for the Lord ♪

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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