

C5553 We Wait in Hope Litany

FIRST SUNDAY – WAIT

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to wait.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

This morning we light the **first candle**. The first candle reminds us that, as we wait upon the Lord, God's light never ceases to shine, God's will never ceases to unfold, and God's grace never ceases to be felt. As we begin the journey of Advent, may we learn to wait upon the Lord with hopeful expectation by celebrating all God has done and anticipating all he will do.

Closing prayer (First Sunday)

God in heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience, endurance and trust. Holding to the eternal promises revealed to us through the power of your Word, we ask that you remind us of your everlasting presence. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY – WATCH

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to watch.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O comes, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

This morning we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time of waiting. We wait in anticipation for God to fulfill every promise set forth in the Bible. The **second candle** reminds us that Advent is also a time of watching. We watch with expectant eyes, trusting that God is active, present and constantly at work, leading all of creation toward the plan of redemption. As we light the second candle, we ask for faith to watch for God's presence, and open eyes to see all that God is doing.

Closing prayer (Second Sunday)

God in heaven, as we learn to wait in faith, help us now to watch in expectation. Open our eyes that we might see the ways you are at work around us, within us and through us. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY – PREPARE

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to prepare

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the way for our God.

During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to wait upon the Lord. We wait for the unfolding of God's plan in accordance with God's time. The **second candle** reminds us that Advent is also a time to watch. We eagerly watch for God's presence and work in our world. As we light the **third candle**, we also remember that Advent is a time to prepare. We prepare ourselves in heart, soul and strength to welcome our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Let each of us ask God to prepare us to celebrate the glory of Christmas.

Closing prayer (Third Sunday)

God in heaven, as we continue our Advent journey, help us to be people who wait on you, watch for you, and through your Spirit be prepared for you. Continue to shine your light in our lives as we look at all you have done, all you are doing, and all that you will do. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY- PRAISE

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to praise.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent, we remember God's past faithfulness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent, we remember God's present goodness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's future promises.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us that during Advent we wait upon the promises of the Lord. The **second candle** reminds us to watch for God's presence with expectant eyes and anxious hearts. The **third candle** reminds us to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of the promised Savior. As we light the **fourth candle**, we are reminded that Advent is a time to give praise for what God has done, for what God is currently doing and for what God will bring to completion. As the light of Advent grows brighter, it reminds us that we move closer to receiving the gift of a Savior.

Closing prayer (Fourth Sunday)

Father in heaven, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise to you. Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE – PROCLAIM

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to proclaim.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a hope that is stronger than any trial.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a victory that is stronger than any defeat.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a peace that is stronger than any conflict.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We proclaim a freedom that is stronger than any bondage.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Tonight we light all of the candles. The **first candle** teaches that Advent is a time to wait upon the Lord with faithful endurance. The **second candle** reminds that Advent is a time to watch for God's presence with hopeful expectation. The **third candle** reminds us that Advent is a time to prepare for the Lord in heart, soul and mind. The **fourth candle** reminds us that the One we wait for, watch for, and prepare for is Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel, meaning God is with us. Tonight, we light the last candle; the **Christ candle**. This candle reminds us that we are to proclaim the message of Christmas by celebrating what Christ has done, and sharing it with others. As the light from each candle fills this room, may the Light of Christ fill our world!

Closing prayer (Christmas Eve)

God in heaven, we thank you for guiding us through our Advent journey. Through waiting, watching, preparing, and praising, we are now ready to proclaim. Help us receive the glory of Christmas, as we celebrate and rejoice that you have come to us through the gift of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.