

## C5851 Christ Be Our Light Litany

### First Sunday – Hope for Those Who Wait

#### *Reponsive Litany*

Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's eternal time.

**How long, O Lord, how long?**

For those waiting for answered prayer:

**Grant your steadfast patience.**

For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

**Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.**

For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

**Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.**

For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of the Psalmist, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14)

### Closing prayer (First Sunday)

God of all creation, we declare that you are the Eternal One. We confess to you, O Lord, that we easily grow impatient, when your word to us is to wait. Ignite within us a new and everlasting hope. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Second Sunday – Hope for Those Who Are Weary

#### *Reponsive Litany*

The Light shines in the darkness,

**but the darkness has not overcome it.**

During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

**The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.**

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

### **Closing prayer (Second Sunday)**

God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Third Sunday - Hope for Those Who Are Watching**

#### *Responsive Litany*

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of**

**Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

### **Closing prayer (Third Sunday)**

God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand in awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

## **Fourth Sunday – Hope for Those Who Are Wounded**

*Reponsive Litany*

Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For relationships left in decay and neglect:

**Come, Lord, and make all things new.**

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of**

**Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

## **Closing prayer (Fourth Sunday)**

Merciful God, Advent reminds us that you left heaven's majesty to walk among wounded people in a broken world. We thank you that your love knows no boundaries or limitations. No wound of this earth is greater than the wounds you came to heal. For all who suffer this day, light the way, O Lord, towards the promise of healing and wholeness made known in you. Amen.

## **Christmas Eve – Hope for Those Who Are Willing**

*Reponsive Litany*

Our Savior's birth is celebrated with bold faith.

**May our hearts be willing.**

Like Mary, who showed humble surrender:

**May our hearts be willing.**

Like Joseph, who exhibited unconditional trust:

**May our hearts be willing.**

Like the shepherds, who displayed awestruck wonder:

**May our hearts be willing.**

Like the angels, who sang glorious praise:

**May our hearts be willing.**

For all who are willing to receive the gift of the Savior born in Bethlehem:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and**

**the grace of Christ as we speak.**

Tonight we light all the candles. The **first candle** is the hope shining for those worn thin by times of waiting. The **second candle** is the hope shining for those worn down with wearied souls. The **third candle** captures the hopeful expectation of those eagerly watching for God's glory in our day. The **fourth candle** is the hope of a new tomorrow shining for those seeking freedom from the wounds of this world. Tonight, we light the **Christ candle**. This candle radiates the hope of Jesus Christ to all who are willing to receive it.

### **Closing prayer (Christmas Eve)**

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, you are the hope for our hurting and broken world. We thank you, O God, for guiding us through this season of Advent, shining your light in the midst of our darkness. As your birth lit up the Bethlehem sky, continue to shine in our world by dispelling darkness, binding up the broken, and calling forth the faithful. On this holiest of nights, make us willing to welcome you as our Savior and Lord. We pray this in the name of our newborn king. Amen.