

In this first "Wait Upon the Lord" service for Advent, we wait upon the Lord with avid anticipation of the birth of Jesus, God's Son. The Bible is full of stories of people who waited, with avid anticipation, of something that was to come. Abraham and Sarah waited for Isaac, Joseph waited for his family to return to Egypt with their father Jacob, David waited for the building of the temple and would never see it completed, the people of Israel waited for the rebuilding of the temple, and everyone waited for the return of the Messiah of God. Today we have the story of God's completed promise in Jesus, but we continue to wait for His return, Jesus' second coming.

## Welcome & Announcements

### Opening Song

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

#### Intro

Oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh

#### Verse 1

Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart

#### Interlude

Oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh

#### Verse 2

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone

By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

**Bridge**

You draw the hearts of shepherds  
You draw the hearts of kings  
Even as a baby  
You were changing ev'rything  
You called me to Your kingdom  
Before Your lips could speak  
And even as a baby  
You were reaching out for me

And now we are awaiting  
The day of Your return  
When ev'ry eye will see You  
As heaven comes to earth  
Until the sky is opened  
Until the trumpet sounds  
The bride is getting ready  
The Church is singing out

**Verse 3**

Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Come Thou long expected King

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## **A Time for Prayer and a Prayer Confessing Our Sins**

## **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Bible Readings**

### **Psalm 62:5-8**

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

### **Isaiah 7:14-15**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

## **Song**

### *A Mighty Fortress*

Our God is a consuming fire,  
A burning holy Flame, with glory and freedom  
Our God is the only righteous judge,  
Ruling over us with kindness and wisdom

#### **Prechorus**

And we will keep our eyes on You  
We will keep our eyes on You

#### **Chorus**

A mighty fortress is our God

A sacred refuge is Your Name  
Your Kingdom is unshakable  
With You forever we will reign

Our God is jealous for His own  
None could comprehend, His love and His mercy  
Our God is exalted on His throne  
High above the heavens  
Forever He is worthy...

**Prechorus**

And we will keep our eyes on You  
We will keep our eyes on You

**Chorus**

A mighty fortress is our God  
A sacred refuge is Your Name  
Your Kingdom is unshakable  
With You forever we will reign

**Chorus**

A mighty fortress is our God  
A sacred refuge is Your Name  
Your Kingdom is unshakable  
With You forever we will reign

**Bridge**

We will keep our eyes on You  
We will keep our eyes on You  
So we can set our hearts on You  
Lord we will set our hearts on You!

**Chorus**

A mighty fortress is our God  
A sacred refuge is Your Name  
Your Kingdom is unshakable  
With You forever we will reign

With You forever we will reign  
With You forever we will reign

## **Gospel Reading**

### **Luke 1:5-25**

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

**Today's Message**     Wait Upon the Lord With Avid Anticipation

# The Prayers

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

## Song

*Jesus Messiah*

He became sin  
Who knew no sin  
That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled himself and carried the cross

Love so amazing  
Love so amazing

**Chorus:** Jesus Messiah  
Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer  
Emmanuel  
The Rescue for sinners  
The Ransom from Heaven  
Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all

His body the bread  
His blood the wine  
Broken and poured out all for love  
The whole earth trembled  
And the veil was torn

Love so amazing  
Love so amazing **Chorus**

All our hope is in You

All our hope is in You  
All the glory to You, God  
The light of the world **Chorus**

Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all

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## **Benediction**