



An Advent And Christmas Worship Series
LEADER'S GUIDE



Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

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Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Notes and Ordering Information

In this series on CD for Advent and Christmas, Keeping Watch, parishioners will keep watch with the people of Israel waiting for the Messiah, with Mary and Joseph awaiting the birth of the holy Child, and with John the Baptist, who kept watch for the Lamb of God.

The CD includes a PDF of prayers, monolog sermons, children's sermons, hymns, visual media recommendations and contemporary music song suggestions as well as the text files of the entire kit in .rtf (rich text format) with a copyright release and PowerPoint documents with text for use on screens.

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Week One Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We invite you to join us for our Advent and Christmas worship series, Keeping Watch, as we keep watch for Jesus. In Week One in the series, Watching for the Messiah, we wait with the people of Israel, who spent centuries looking for the promised Messiah to come, and with the priest Zechariah, whose son would prepare the way for Jesus. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns help us as we eagerly anticipate this Advent our Messiah's arrival on Christmas.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to Week One of our Advent and Christmas worship series, Keeping Watch, as we keep watch for Jesus. In this service, Watching for the Messiah, we wait with the people of Israel, who spent centuries looking for the promised Messiah to come, and with the priest Zechariah, whose son would prepare the way for Jesus. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns will help us as we eagerly anticipate this Advent our Savior's arrival on Christmas.

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Week Two Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We invite you to join us for our Advent and Christmas worship series, Keeping Watch, as we keep watch for Jesus. In Week Two in the series, Watching for the Child, we wait with Mary for the little child to come to lead God's people. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns help us as we eagerly anticipate this Advent the Christ Child's birth on Christmas.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to Week Two of our Advent and Christmas worship series, Keeping Watch, as we keep watch for Jesus. In this service, Watching for the Child, we wait with Mary for the little child to come to lead God's people. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns will help us as we eagerly anticipate this Advent the Christ Child's birth on Christmas.

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Week Three Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We invite you to join us for our Advent and Christmas worship series, Keeping Watch, as we keep watch for Jesus. In Week Three in the series, Watching for the Lamb, we wait with the prophet Malachi of old and with John the Baptist, who waited to behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns help us as we eagerly anticipate this Advent beholding the Lamb of God on Christmas.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to Week Three of our Advent and Christmas worship series, Keeping Watch, as we keep watch for Jesus. In this service, Watching for the Lamb, we wait with the prophet Malachi of old and with John the Baptist, who waited to behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns will help us as we eagerly anticipate this Advent beholding the Lamb of God on Christmas.

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Week Four Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We invite you to join us for our Advent and Christmas worship series, Keeping Watch, as we keep watch for Jesus. In Week Four in the series, Watching for the Savior, we wait with the prophet Daniel and the heavenly angels who are looking for signs of a Savior who will bring peace to our troubled lives. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns help us as we eagerly anticipate this Advent our Savior's arrival on Christmas "with peace, goodwill to all" to every unsettling circumstance.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to Week Four of our Advent and Christmas worship series, Keeping Watch, as we keep watch for Jesus. In this service, Watching for the Savior, we wait with the prophet Daniel and the heavenly angels who are looking for signs of a Savior who will bring peace to our troubled lives. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns will help us as we eagerly anticipate this Advent our Savior's arrival on Christmas "with peace, goodwill to all" to every unsettling circumstance.

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Christmas Eve Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We invite you to join us for our Christmas Eve worship service, Watching for the Shepherd, which is part of our Keeping Watch series this Advent season. In this service, we watch with the Bethlehem shepherds for the coming of the Good Shepherd, who will care for us and lead us to the glory of heaven. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns help us to rejoice in the good news of great joy which shall be to all people: Our Good Shepherd is born.

Bulletin Notice

Merry Christmas to you all, and welcome to our Christmas Eve worship service, Watching for the Shepherd, which is part of our Keeping Watch series this Advent season. In this service, we watch with the Bethlehem shepherds for the coming of the Good Shepherd, who will care for us and lead us to the glory of heaven. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns will help us to rejoice in the good news of great joy which shall be to all people: Our Good Shepherd is born.

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Christmas Day Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

We invite you to join us for our Christmas Day worship service, Watching for Salvation, which is part of our Keeping Watch series this Advent season. In this service, we watch with Simeon and Anna in the temple for the presentation of the Baby Jesus, who has come to present himself to each one of us as the bringer of our salvation. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns help us to remember the Savior who is born to raise each child of earth and born to give us second birth through his Holy Spirit.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to our Christmas Day worship service, Watching for Salvation, which is part of our Keeping Watch series this Advent season. In this service, we watch with Simeon and Anna in the temple for the presentation of the Baby Jesus, who has come to present himself to each one of us as the bringer of our salvation. Specially selected hymns, a sermon, a children's sermon, thematic Scripture verses and hymns help us to remember the Savior who is born to raise each child of earth and born to give us second birth through his Holy Spirit.

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Week One:
Watching for the Messiah

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Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Week One:
Watching for the Messiah
Order of Service

*The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Isaiah 52:8*

Opening Hymn..... St. Thomas SM

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise to meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Psalm 130:5-8)

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. We light the first candle on our wreath as we remember the people of Israel, who watched and waited for the promised Messiah. In the words of the psalmist, we speak of our own watching and waiting. I wait for the LORD,

C **My soul waits, and in his word I hope;**

P my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,

C **more than watchmen for the morning.**

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

C **And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

(An acolyte lights one purple candle on the Advent Wreath.)

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, we confess to you that we often turn away from your Word and will to follow the temptations of the world and our own sinful desires. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate and whose return we await.**

P God sent his Son to be our Savior. On the cross Jesus suffered the penalty of death that we deserved. On the third day he rose from death to give us eternal life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.**

Prayer of the Day

Hymn St. Thomas SM

As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again
And his true members all unite with him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

Children's Message

Hymn St. Thomas SM

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one, through all eternity.

Old Testament Reading.....Isaiah 52:7-10

Epistle Reading.....1 Peter 1:10-16

Gospel Reading Luke 1:67-79

Sermon Hymn Veni Emmanuel LM and refrain

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Sermon

Hymn of Response Veni Emmanuel LM and refrain

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Offering

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Advent Lord, we long for your return.

C Come, Lord Jesus!

Lord's Prayer

(Holy Communion, if offered, is celebrated at this time.)

Benediction

Closing HymnNun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland 77 77

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, what the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year, stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—truly came, as long foretold.

Bruise for me the serpent's head that, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith, safely kept through life and death.

Then when you will come again as the glorious King to reign,
I with joy will see your face, freely ransomed by your grace.

Creative
Communications
Sample

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Week One:

Watching for the Messiah

Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- The **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before worship begins:

*The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Isaiah 52:8*

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** of mountains (purchased by you from istockphoto.com) to coordinate with the Isaiah 52 text is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points when you wish:

<http://www.istockphoto.com/photo/epic-mountain-view-gm486878260-73775389?st=110d451>

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Thomas SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise to meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

- **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Psalm 130:5-8)** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. We light the first candle on our wreath as we remember the people of Israel, who watched and waited for the promised Messiah. In the words of the psalmist, we speak of our own watching and waiting. I wait for the LORD,

C **My soul waits, and in his word I hope;**

P my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,

C **more than watchmen for the morning.**

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

C **And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

(An acolyte lights one purple candle on the Advent Wreath.)

- **The Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, we confess to you that we often turn away from your Word and will to follow the temptations of the world and our own sinful desires. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate and whose return we await.**

P God sent his Son to be our Savior. On the cross Jesus suffered the penalty of death that we deserved. On the third day he rose from death to give us eternal life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor:

P Almighty God and Father, we are watching and waiting, but not only for the celebration of Christmas—the birth of your Son, our Savior. We also watch and wait for our Lord’s return on the Last Day, when all will be finally fulfilled and we will live in your presence forever. Until that great day, guide us with your Word and empower us by your Spirit to live as your redeemed people in the world, during this Advent season and always. Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus, our Advent Lord. Amen.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Thomas SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again
And his true members all unite with him in heav’n to reign.

Before the dawning day let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: Calendar pages for November and December

P We know that Christmas will be here very soon! Is it hard to wait? Let’s use these calendar pages to count the days we have left until Christmas. We’ll count out loud together—and your families can join us as we count (*point to the days as you count out loud*): “1, 2, 3 ... Finally! Christmas Day!” It’s fun to get presents at Christmas. We can hardly wait! But on Christmas, long ago in Bethlehem, we received the best gift of all. Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas? (*Let children answer.*) Christmas is Jesus’ birthday!

We have _____ days to wait as we look forward to celebrating Jesus’ birth. But God’s people in the Old Testament waited longer than that. God promised to send the Savior to his people, but they didn’t just wait for many days. They waited for hundreds and hundreds of years! But they knew—and we know today—that God’s keeps his promises. When the time was right, God sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and at Christmas we will celebrate his birth. Jesus grew up. He taught people about God. He healed people who were sick. When the time was right, Jesus died on

the cross to take our sins away and then he rose from the dead so that we will live and celebrate with him forever! Let's pray:

Jesus, in _____ days, it will be Christmas, and we will celebrate your birth. Thank you for coming to be our Savior. Amen.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Thomas SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of this music guide can be sung instead:

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one, through all eternity.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 52:7-10, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Peter 1:10-16, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

- The **Gospel Reading**, Luke 1:67-79, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,

to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Veni Emmanuel LM and refrain, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

- If desired, this **Mini-Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: worshiphousemedia.com) is presented on a screen at this time to highlight the Messiah theme:

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/47913/messiah>

- The **Sermon**, “It’s Starting to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” is delivered by the pastor:

P How many shopping days are left until Christmas? Is there enough time to get everything done, or is there too much time? Adults and children answer those questions differently! Children are eager! They are watching and waiting, counting the days. There will be candy and cookies to enjoy and presents waiting for them under the tree. Christmas can’t come soon enough!

What about the adults here today? Are you eager for Christmas or a little jaded about the whole thing? You have shopping to do, concerts and worship services to attend, a house to clean and decorate, cooking and baking to do, guests to welcome—the list goes on. You are watching and waiting for Christmas, too, just like the children. Maybe you want Christmas to come quickly—and you want it to go, to be over and done, just as quickly.

The Old Testament people of Israel watched and waited. They waited, not just for days and weeks, but for years and for centuries. Century after century they waited and hoped and watched. God promised to send to his people a Helper, a Savior—the Messiah, the Anointed One—to save and rule his people. The Messiah would come to set captives free and heal the blind and the deaf. When the

Messiah came, the lame would walk, the hungry would be fed and the humble and lowly would be raised up. No wonder God's people watched and waited. The coming of the Messiah would be better than Christmas!

But century after century the people of Israel waited, and still the Messiah did not come. Were they eager or jaded? Did they wait and watch faithfully, or were they giving up hope? Again and again God sent the prophets to keep his promise fresh in the minds and hearts of his people and keep the hope alive. When Israel turned from his Word and will, God spoke through the prophets and called his people to repentance and restored faith. The prophets searched and wondered about the things God revealed to them concerning the Promised One. When would he come? Who would he be? What would he do? Little by little, down through the centuries, the mysterious gift was unwrapped, yet the promise also remained a mystery.

It was like a puzzle being slowly assembled, one piece at a time as the words of the prophets revealed the mystery. The Messiah would be a prophet like Moses and a King like his ancestor David. He would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. His kingdom would endure forever, yet the Anointed One of God would suffer and die like a lamb led to slaughter. Like a sacrificial lamb he would bear the sins of the people. This new ruler would come from Bethlehem. A star would rise in Israel. The Messiah would rise like a shining light and caravans of camels would bring gold and frankincense. This is starting to sound a lot like Christmas! The promised Messiah would be a child, a son born of a virgin. He would be called Emmanuel—God with us! The Promised One would be God! God himself was coming to visit his people.

The prophet Isaiah said when the Promised One came the watchmen of Israel would sing for joy—that sounds like Christmas too! “Eye to eye,” face to face, they would see the Lord himself coming to dwell among to his people. God himself was coming, in the flesh, to redeem his people. And so it happened. The pieces of the puzzle came together, and the final piece slid into place. It did in fact look a lot like Christmas, the first Christmas. God himself was born among us, as one of us. The mystery was unwrapped, and wrapped again in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. A star proclaimed his birth and wise men brought gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. The promise was kept. The prophets had asked and wondered—“When would he come? Who would he be?”—and now we know what the prophets did not yet fully know. The long-awaited Messiah was born in Bethlehem, and his name is Jesus.

God watched and waited—and remembered his promise to send the Savior. And when the time was right, the promised was fulfilled. “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5). John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord. John's father Zechariah praised God for remembering his covenant promise. According to that promise, God would deliver us from our enemies, that we might “serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.” That is exactly what Jesus did. Through his death on the cross and through his resurrection, he delivered us from our enemies of sin, death and the devil. With sins

forgiven, and confident in the hope of eternal life, we now serve our God and Lord “without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

All through these long—or too short—weeks of Advent, we serve our God and Savior. We will often stumble and fail. We may become too busy with our preparations and neglect to repent of our sins and prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Lord’s birth. We may become impatient with family members or co-workers. We may complain about all that we have to do. Yet, as God called Israel to repentance, so he calls us to repent of our sins this Advent season. Restored and forgiven, cleansed by the blood of our Savior, we continue to serve our God “without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.” Advent is about repentance—we need the Savior who was born for us, who suffered and died, taking the penalty for our sins onto himself. We serve God without fear, because, through faith in Christ Jesus, we have nothing to fear. You may plan to dress in your best for Christmas, but our Advent Lord has dressed us in his best, his own holiness and righteousness, now and for all eternity. That’s the good news of salvation found only in the Christ Child of Bethlehem. The celebration of his birth can’t come soon enough!

The long years of waiting for that first Christmas are over. Jesus, the promised Messiah and Son of God has come, born among us as one of us—to save us. We will soon rejoice in the celebration of his birth. We will come together for special worship services and give gifts to reflect the greatest gift of all, the gift of God’s Son. Yet even as we celebrate during this season of Advent, we are still watching and waiting for Jesus’ Second Advent. We are watching and waiting for his return on the Last Day. On that great day, we will see our Lord Jesus in the flesh, eye to eye and face to face. Like the watchmen of Israel we will sing for joy. All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God. We will live in his presence and serve him “without fear, in holiness and righteousness” for all eternity. The great day of our Lord’s Second Advent, in fact, may look a lot like Christmas. Amen.

- A **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Veni Emmanuel LM and refrain, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

- The **Offering** is collected. If desired, this **Motion Loop** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: worshiphousemedia.com) is presented on a screen at this time for reflection on the Messiah theme:

<http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/motion-backgrounds/42479/starlight-nativity-messiah-loop>

Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Music Guide

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Keeping Watch

An Advent and Christmas Worship Series

Week One:

Watching for the Messiah

Music Guide

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The image displays a piano score for the hymn 'St. Thomas SM'. The music is written in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The second system also has a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, chords, and melodic lines. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Creative Communications Sample' is overlaid diagonally across the center of the page.

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Thomas SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise to meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

Creative
Communications
Sample

The image displays a piano accompaniment for the hymn 'St. Thomas SM'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The first system begins with a measure of rest in both staves, followed by a series of chords and melodic lines. The second system continues the piece, ending with a final chord and a fermata. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Creative Communications Sample' is overlaid diagonally across the lower half of the page.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Thomas SM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again
And his true members all unite with him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

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