



WAIT UPON THE LORD

A Series of Special Services for Advent



WEEK 1: WAIT UPON THE LORD
with Faith



WEEK 2: WAIT UPON THE LORD
with Hope



WEEK 3: WAIT UPON THE LORD
with Rejoicing



WEEK 4: WAIT UPON THE LORD
with Gratitude

WORSHIP KIT



WAIT UPON
THE LORD

*A Series of Special
Services for Advent*

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your
heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
—Psalm 27:14

WORSHIP KIT



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A Series of Special Services for Advent

ABOUT “WAIT UPON THE LORD”

The season of Advent is characterized by waiting—waiting upon the Lord for his presence to be revealed to us on Christmas. In this worship series for Advent, we look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make himself known to us.

Week 1 • Wait Upon the Lord with Faith (Galatians 3:8): Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God’s Son, Jesus, trusting that he will come at Christmas to save all people.

Week 2 • Wait Upon the Lord with Hope (Psalm 130:5): The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.

Week 3 • Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing (Isaiah 25:9): Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.

Week 4 • Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude (Psalm 9:1): Zechariah’s waiting days for John the Baptist’s birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord’s promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior’s birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.

For each service, the kit contains: sample bulletins with complete orders of service • sermon • children's message • prayers • music for the accompanist

In addition to everything you need for each service, this kit also contains a CD-ROM (Mac/PC) with the text of the entire kit in .rtf (rich text format), newsletter/bulletin notices, hymns, visual media recommendations, contemporary music song suggestions and PowerPoint documents of all the services with images and text (along with a copyright release) for use on screens.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Pre-printed bulletins, blank bulletins, and several other resources are available. Call Creative Communications for the Parish at 1-800-325-9414, or visit us on the web at creativecommunications.com for current pricing and availability.

Blank 8 1/2" x 11" bulletin WLD1A

Blank 8 1/2" x 14" bulletin WLD1B

Promotional posters (set of 3) 11" x 17" WLD1PR

Bulletin insert 5 3/8" x 8 3/8" WLD1BL

Signature collection WLD1SK

Complete collection WLD1CK



WAIT UPON THE LORD

A Series of Special Services for Advent

WEEK 1: WAIT UPON THE LORD WITH FAITH

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Wait Upon the Lord special service for the First Week of Advent. In this service we wait upon the Lord with faith. Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God's Son, Jesus, trusting that he will come at Christmas to save all people.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this first Wait Upon the Lord service for Advent, we wait upon the Lord with faith. Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God's Son, Jesus, trusting that he will come at Christmas to save all people.



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**WEEK 2:
WAIT UPON THE LORD
WITH HOPE**

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Wait Upon the Lord special service for the Second Week of Advent. In this service we wait upon the Lord with hope. The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this second Wait Upon the Lord service for Advent, we wait upon the Lord with hope. The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.



*A Series of Special
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**WEEK 3:
WAIT UPON THE LORD
WITH REJOICING**

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Wait Upon the Lord special service for the Third Week of Advent. In this service we wait upon the Lord with rejoicing. Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner, we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this third Wait Upon the Lord service for Advent, we wait upon the Lord with rejoicing. Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner, we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.



A Series of Special Services for Advent

WEEK 4: WAIT UPON THE LORD WITH GRATITUDE

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for the Wait Upon the Lord special service for the Fourth Week of Advent. In this service we wait upon the Lord with gratitude. Zechariah's waiting days for John the Baptist's birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord's promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior's birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.

BULLETIN NOTICE

In this fourth Wait Upon the Lord service for Advent, we wait upon the Lord with gratitude. Zechariah's waiting days for John the Baptist's birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord's promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior's birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.



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**WEEK 1:
WAIT UPON THE LORD
WITH FAITH**

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WEEK 1: WAIT UPON THE LORD WITH FAITH

ORDER OF SERVICE

*And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you."
Galatians 3:8*

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous.

P Wait upon the Lord. That's what Abraham did, even though he was about a hundred years old.

C And Sarah's womb was barren.

P Still, Abraham waited in faith.

C Fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

HymnSt. 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 thy lowly King,
Nor let thy faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

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

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with you. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*You are invited to meditate on the fact that
though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.*

P Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

C Amen.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy.

C Give us patience.

P Christ, have mercy.

C Give us patience and peace.

P Lord, have mercy.

C Give us patience and peace for the living of these days.

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading Genesis 17:1-9

Epistle Reading Romans 4:13-21

Gospel Acclamation

P Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

C Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:16-25

Sermon Hymn Milwaukee 88 88 88 66

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he doth bring, wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:
We praise thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art thou!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.
To thee, O God, be praise for word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thine inner presence feel, thy grace and love in me reveal;
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame we offer to thy name.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

P Heavenly Father, we wait for you.

C **More than watchmen wait for the morning—**

P More than watchmen wait for the morning.

C **Lead us in your truth and teach us.**

P For you are the God of our salvation.

C **For you we wait all the day long.**

P O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.

C **Serve you joyfully.**

P And give to others generously.

C **Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.**

P Courage for the fainthearted.

C **Hope for the discouraged.**

P And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

¶ May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.

¶ **As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.**

Closing Hymn.....Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland 77 77

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's Son, make here thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood; by the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned, still to be in heav'n enthroned.

Thou, the Father's only Son, hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall thy kingdom be; when shall we its glories see?



A Series of Special Services for Advent

WEEK 1: WAIT UPON THE LORD WITH FAITH

COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** 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:

www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/retro-alarm-clock-on-table-photo-196344845

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

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you."

Galatians 3:8

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous.

P Wait upon the Lord. That's what Abraham did, even though he was about a hundred years old.

C And Sarah's womb was barren.

P Still, Abraham waited in faith.

C Fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

- The **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 thy lowly King,
Nor let thy faithless heart despise the peace He comes to bring.

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

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

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

P God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C **We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with you. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*You are invited to meditate on the fact that
though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.*

P Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

C **Amen.**

P Wait upon the Lord.

C **Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!**

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

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Give us patience.**

P Christ, have mercy.

C **Give us patience and peace.**

P Lord, have mercy.

C **Give us patience and peace for the living of these days.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Abraham and Sarah; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—God forever. Amen.

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

No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. Genesis 17:5

*(Ask the children, “How many of you have a grandmother?”
As several raise their hands, ask, “When is your grandmother going to have her next baby?” As children answer, continue with the lesson.)*

- Ⓟ Grandmothers usually don’t have babies, do they? Their bodies are unable to have children. Do you think a man who is ninety-nine years old and a woman who is eighty-nine years old could start a family and have children? That seems impossible, doesn’t it?

God once told a man who was ninety-nine years old whose name was Abram (that’s a Hebrew word meaning “Exalted Father”) that he was going to be a father for the very first time. God even changed his name to Abraham (that’s a Hebrew word meaning “Father of Many”).

Abraham had a hard time believing that. So did his wife Sarah (that’s a Hebrew word meaning “Princess”). But it happened! It really happened. Abraham and Sarah waited and waited and one day a son was born. They named him Isaac (that’s a Hebrew word meaning “Laughter”). Abraham and Sarah were so happy to have a son that they named him “Laughter.” Imagine that!

There was another miraculous birth to a couple named Mary and Joseph. Does anyone know their son’s name? That’s right—Jesus (that’s a Hebrew word meaning “the Lord Saves”).

Let’s review. In their old age, Abraham (the Father of Many) and Sarah (the Princess) had a son Isaac (Laughter). And all of this points to the most miraculous birth—Jesus (the Lord Saves). Jesus saves us. Jesus loves us. And Jesus will return for us. Then we’ll say what? Another Hebrew word that means “Praise the Lord.” Does anyone know that word in Hebrew? It sounds like this: “Hallelujah!”

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Genesis 17:1-9, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

- Ⓟ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and

you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Romans 4:13-21, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

- The **Gospel Acclamation** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

Ⓟ Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Ⓞ **Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!**

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 1:16-25, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ And Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an

angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Milwaukee 88 88 88 66, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he doth bring, wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:
We praise thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art thou!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.
To thee, O God, be praise for word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thine inner presence feel, thy grace and love in me reveal;
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame we offer to thy name.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

📖 *Undaunted Courage* is a book by Stephan Ambrose. In it, Ambrose writes about the Lewis and Clark expedition that took place in the early 1800s. After facing massive challenges—hunger, fatigue, desertion, illness and so much more—Lewis and Clark (near Three Forks, Montana) finally reached the headwaters of the Missouri River.

All of their advance information led Merriwether Lewis and William Clark to believe that once they had reached the continental divide—just one-hundred miles west of Three Forks—they would face a half-day portage, reach the waters of the Columbia River, and then float to the Pacific Ocean. The hard part of the journey was behind them. It was time to celebrate.

Or so they thought!

Meriwether Lewis climbed the bluffs near the Continental Divide, expecting to see the Columbia River. Imagine what he felt when, instead of seeing the Columbia River, he was the first non-native American to see the Rocky Mountains. They couldn't go back, and there was no clear way forward. We have a word for that—trapped.

Do you know that feeling? Sure, we all do, in some way, shape, or form. Maybe we recently conquered a bad habit, only to suffer a relapse. Maybe we feel stuck in a dead-end marriage, a dead-end job, a dead-end life—or all of the above. Like Lewis and Clark, we can't go back and, like Lewis and Clark, there is no clear way forward. We have a word for that—trapped.

Welcome to the world of Abraham and Sarah. Their story begins in Genesis 11. Abram—as he was called then—was the son of a man named Terah. The family was from the ancient Babylonian city called Ur. It was in Ur that Abram met Sarai—that was her name back then. At some point Abram and Sarai married and then moved from Ur to Haran, a city on the Tigris River.

Then God showed up. In Genesis 12, God called Abram and Sarai to go to the land of Canaan where he would make a great nation through—of all people—Abram and Sarai. Abram was sixty-five years old then; Sarai was fifty-five. Genesis 11:30 says that Sarai was barren. Can you imagine what Abram and Sarai said? “A great nation? But we can't have any children. And look how old we are!” And so they waited. And waited. And waited some more.

Still, no son.

They got tired of waiting when Abram turned eighty-six and Sarai turned seventy-six years old. Who could blame them? Sarai pushed a woman named Hagar into Abraham's tent and nine months later their union gave birth to Ishmael.

Thirteen years later, in Genesis 17, Abram is ninety-nine and Sarai is eighty-nine years old. Sarai is still barren; the household is still full with rancor and strife because of the Hagar and Ishmael debacle. We have a word for that—trapped.

Then God showed up. Genesis 17:1 states, “When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty.’” The Hebrew phrase behind the title “God Almighty” is El Shaddai. El Shaddai means that God is sufficient; God is able; God is powerful. El Shaddai means that God is almighty.

What does El Shaddai do when he shows up? He cuts a covenant. The term “covenant” appears five times in our reading from Genesis 17. In fact, “covenant” appears another eight times in the rest of Genesis 17. Additionally, in three of these references in Genesis 17 (verses 7, 13, and 19) God says that this covenant is eternal. Do you think God is trying to make a point?