

Ecumenical Worship Service

CCM Center, Chapel of Light

3rd Sunday in Advent

Sunday, 15th December 2013

5:00 PM



Waiting in silence, waiting in hope:

The storms of life won't shake us.

Reflections on the Season of Advent

What is Advent?

Advent is not the same thing as Christmas – it is a season of longing, of expectation and anticipation. We are looking forward to the coming of Immanuel (“God with us”) - the birth of Jesus Christ, born to set all people free. Advent teaches us the art of waiting and reflecting in patience and hope. Christmas, on the other hand, is a time of celebration and rejoicing for the gift that is given.

What is the Advent Wreath?

It is an ancient tradition: The wreath traditionally consists of four candles on a circle of evergreens. Each week a candle is lit - one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until Christmas Day.

It is meant to highlight the progression of Advent and symbolize the light of God being brought into a world of darkness and sin.

What about Advent Hymns?

Each week, we listen to an Advent hymn during the lighting of the Advent Wreath candles. We reflect on the Hymn to acknowledge our inner longing for change, for the Light of God to enter our lives.

MUSICAL REFLECTION ON ADVENT

Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
we are your people, we long for you, Lord.
God ever with us, Emmanuel,
Come, Lord Jesus, Maranatha!

Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
we are your people, we trust in your love.
O Sun of Justice, true Prince of Peace,
Come with your justice, Lord, Maranatha!

Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
we are your people, Lord, we seek your truth.
Wisdom Incarnate, teach us your way;
Show us the path of life, Maranatha!

Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
we are your people, we long for new life.
O Key of David, open our hearts.
Give us new vision, Lord, Maranatha!

Waiting in silence, waiting in hope;
we are your people, our hearts thirst for you.
Flower of Jesse, bloom in our midst.
Make us your garden, Lord, Maranatha!

Dear Friends in Christ,

This contemplative service is held in the spirit of Taizé. It is an opportunity to reflect in prayer and song.



You may sing along at the ***bold and italic*** portions. Sometimes, the songs are available in more than one language, so feel free to use the version most suited to you.

You may read aloud the prayers and psalm printed in **bold**.

Please remain silent when you enter or leave the Chapel out of respect to those who are praying.

Thank you and God bless.

For more information on Taizé, please visit www.taize.fr

MUSIC / SILENT MEDITATION

♪ *Sing praises, all you people,*

Sing praises to the Lord

(Or : Laudate omnes gentes, laudate

Dominum / Pujilah semua bangsa, puji Tuhan kita)

INVOCATION

L: Grace and peace to you in Jesus Christ!

C: Amen.

L: Now is the time of watching and waiting!

C: A new day is dawning.

L: The candle has been lit.

C: Let us worship in the light of God's grace.

L: Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace - which You bring. Fill our mouths with laughter; and speech with shouts of joy - that we shall reveal the love with which You surround us.

C: We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world - bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy: Jesus Christ. Amen.

♪ *I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

Yes, I shall see the Goodness of our God;

Hold firm - trust in the Lord!

CONTEMPLATION

INWARD: In your presence, we confess, our desire to please ourselves rather than to live inspired by your Word and your life.

Psalm 146:5-10 (NIV)

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

⁶ **He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them –
he remains faithful forever.**

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,

⁸ **the LORD gives sight to the blind,**
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ **The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.**

¹⁰ The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD. AMEN.

♪ *In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!*

Look to God – do not be afraid;

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near! (2x)

*(Or: Meine Hoffnung und meine Freude, meine Stärke,
mein Licht- Christus, meine Zuversicht, auf Dich vertrau
ich und fürcht' mich nicht!)*

OUTWARD: In your presence, we confess, we have allowed the powers of this world to compromise our commitment to serving you.

♪ *In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,
in God, my peace and joy.*

*Only in God my soul can find its rest -
find its rest, - and peace.*

*(Or: Bei Gott bin ich geborgen, still, wie ein Kind, bei ihm
ist Trost – und Heil. Ja, hin zu Gott, verzehrt sich meine
Seele – kehrt in Frieden ein. / Mon âme se repose en paix
sur Dieu seul: De lui vient mon salut. Oui, sur Dieu seul
mon âme se repose – se repose en paix.)*

Matthew 11:2-6 (NKJV)

² And when John (the Baptist) had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

James 5:7-10 (NIV)

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹ Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

SILENT MEDITATION

*(We meditate on our personal prayers
and reflect on God's Word in silence)*

Jesus came to bring witness to the power of God's
transformation.

We wait, in silence, and in hope, for this change to
come into our own lives.

When struggling and suffering are all around, let us
remember the words of the prophets that shared this
burden. Faced with the threat of exclusion from
society, of pain and of death, they clung to their faith -
knowing that God is near and there to transform their
life gave them stillness and strength of heart.

♪ *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near*

Wait for the Lord, keep watch - take heart!

♪ *'See, I am near', says the Lord;*

'See, I make all things new.' Ooh...

FORWARD:

God of hope,
you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression
to the freedom of justice,
the balm of healing,
and the joy of sharing.
Make us strong to join you in your holy work,
as friends of strangers and victims,
companions of those whom others shun,
and as the happiness of those whose hearts are broken.
Amen.



Stay with me, remain here with me

Watch and pray (2x)

(Or: Bleibet hier, und wachet mit mir

Wachet und betet (2x))

PRAYER

*L: Whilst imprisoned and awaiting execution in a Nazi
Concentration Camp in Germany during World War Two, the
pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote:*

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting - come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet this heart is by its old foe, 'the past', tormented,
still dark days bring burdens hard to bear;
Oh, give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, You taught us to prepare.

And when this cup You give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet should You wish to bestow on us again
Delight and Joy in the world around us
we shall not forget the past experiences
and our whole life shall then be Yours alone.

**C: The world waits in its suffering, in grieving silence.
We, Your faithful children, wait in joyful hope, for Your
Coming, O loving God. AMEN.**

♪ *Lord have mercy upon us! Ooh. (2x)*
Grant us peace, Lord, grant us peace!

L: Let us say **THE LORD'S PRAYER** together, each in our
mother tongue.

OFFERTORY

♪ *Where there is charity, selfless love*

Where there is charity, God is truly there!

(Or: Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est / Di dalam cin-ta dan ka-sih, di dalam cin-ta ha-dir-lah Tuhan)

COMMUNION IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(We gather together at the altar to light a candle symbolizing our personal prayers. In passing the flame to one another, we wish to experience our communion with Christ and each other. After placing our candle at the altar we exchange the **SIGN OF THE PEACE**)

“Put Peace into each others’ hands
And like a treasure hold it
Protect it like a candle flame
And with constant Faith do grow it.”

♪ *Jesus, remember me, when you come
into your kingdom (2x)*

♪ *Bless the Lord, my soul*
And bless God's Holy Name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into Life

O God,
rejoicing,
we remember the promise of your Son.
As the light from the Advent candle,
may the blessing of Christ come upon us,
brightening our way
and guiding us by His truth.
May Christ our Savior bring life
into the darkness of our world,
and to us, as we wait for his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

♪ *Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us*
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us

Let my heart always welcome your love.

L: Let us say the **BENEDICTION** together.

C: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us both now and forever more. AMEN.

MUSIC / SILENT MEDITATION