

Advent – The Waiting Time

You keep us waiting,
You the God of all time,
Want us to wait
For the right time in which to discover
Who we are, where we must go,
Who will be with us, and what we must do.

So thank you ... for the waiting time.

You keep us looking
You, the God of all space,
Want us to look in the right and wrong places
For signs of hope,
For people who are hopeless,
For visions of a better world which will appear
Among the disappointments of the world we know.

So thank you...for the looking time.

You keep us loving,
You the God whose name is love,
Want us to be like you –
To love the loveless and the unlovely
and the un-loveable;
To love without jealousy or design or threat;
And most difficult of all,
To love ourselves.

So thank you....for the loving time.

And in all this -You keep us
Through hard questions with no easy answers;
Through failing where we hoped to succeed
And making an impact when we felt we were useless;
Through the patience and the dreams and
the love of others;

And through Jesus Christ and his Spirit,
You keep us

So thank you... for the keeping time,

And for now, and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING:

Go forth in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted;
support the weak;
help the suffering;
honour all men and women;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
May Almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
AMEN.

PRAYER OF SORROW:

My God, I know that you love me and I know
that your love for me is not a changeable love,
but an eternal love.

I know that you love me just as I am -
that I may be foolish or unintelligent -
that I may be weak or strong -
that I may be stable or rather unbalanced.
That doesn't matter - I KNOW THAT YOU
LOVE ME.

Better still - I know that you are happy to love
me.

I know that you love me when I feel lost - when I
realise I am a sinner - when I am poor not only
in worldly goods but in virtues.

I know that you love me and you are happy to
search for me.

I know that you are there like the shepherd
searching for his sheep.

I know that I can give you a marvellous sense of
joy when I let you find me again.

WAITING:

Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. But
waiting as a disciple of Jesus is not an empty
waiting. It is a waiting with a promise in our
hearts that makes already present what we are
waiting for. We wait during Advent for the birth
of Jesus. We wait after Easter for the coming of
the Spirit, and after the Ascension of Jesus we
wait for his coming again in glory. We are
always waiting, but it is a waiting in the
conviction that we have already seen God's
footsteps.

Waiting for God is an active, alert—yes, joyful—
waiting. As we wait we remember him for whom
we are waiting, and as we remember him we
create a community ready to welcome him
when he comes.