



## **PRAYER AS WE GATHER:**

Loving Creator; we trust the days are coming: days of justice, and days of mercy; days of humility, and days of hope; days of righteousness, and days of peace; days when promises come true.

Loving Savior, Jesus Christ; as you draw near to us with your kingdom cradled in your arms, may we not fear your coming, but be alert for your presence in every moment of service, in every person bearing your grace.

Loving Comforter, Holy Spirit; when despair is the gift of the world, you bring us joy; when we cannot utter a sound, you pray for us every night and day; when we are lost and afraid, you place our feet on the right path.

God in Community, Holy in One, be with us in this waiting time and help us wait faithfully. Amen

## **Song of Gathering: "If in Your Heart"**

## **PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:**

### **❖ WAITING REMINDS US THAT WE ARE NOT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.**

It's so easy to get caught up in our own plans, convinced that everything we do is absolutely, crucially important. That's part of what makes waiting so frustrating, and so valuable. Being forced to wait gives us the opportunity to remember that other people have plans and priorities as well. We are not the focal point of the universe. That doesn't make our plans unimportant, but it does put them in perspective.

### **❖ WAITING REMINDS US THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL.**

At the very least, waiting forces us to realize that we are *not* in control. And that can be a valuable opportunity to reflect on who is.

### **❖ WAITING REMINDS US THAT LIFE IS A GIFT.**

Forced to sit at a stop light for several precious minutes, I have a choice. I can choose to grumble and gripe about the loss of my precious time, or I can remember that those very minutes were a gift God gave me so

that I might have the opportunity to live for his glory. Sure, this wasn't how I'd planned to use them. But that doesn't change the gift.

❖ **WAITING REMINDS US THAT THE PRESENT MATTERS.**

Sometimes I think waiting frustrates us because we're too future-oriented, always focused on what comes next. But what about now? Next is in God's hands. Now is what we have. Done well, being forced to wait can be like watching a particularly spectacular movie scene in slow motion. You know the movie will continue playing at regular speed soon, but for now you're just enjoying what's on the screen.

❖ **WAITING REMINDS US THAT THE FUTURE IS BIGGER THAN WE THINK.**

Sometimes I think waiting frustrates us because we're not future-oriented enough. We try not to think about it much, but I think we all have a sense of our own mortality, and it seeps out when we're forced to wait. We have a finite amount of time, why waste any of it waiting for things to happen? But, of course, our time isn't really finite. We're destined for eternity. That doesn't mean we can get complacent with the time we have now, but waiting can remind us that this life is part of something much larger. In the light of eternity, is a two-minute wait at the grocery store really that onerous? - *Marc Cortez*

**PRAISE SONG:** *“O Come Let Us Adore Him” (music at end of bulletin)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: The time is surely coming when our love for one another  
and all of God's children will increase.

**All: We would live into that time with hope and joy.**

One: The day is surely coming  
when God will strengthen our hearts  
with humility and holiness.

**All: We would anticipate that day as we reach out to serve  
all of those in need.**

One: The days are surely coming when we will walk the paths  
of faithfulness and steadfast love.

**All: We continue this journey, knowing that all of God's promises will be  
fulfilled.**

**OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:**

One: Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to avoid rushing into Christmas. But watch what God does during this Advent time. God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths; God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do, so we might be forgiven and graced with new life. Let us approach the One who waits -- for us!

**ALL:** It is never easy for us to confess our sins, God who waits for us. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.

Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

*(Silence is observed.)*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:***

One: God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.

**All:** Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love. You are the God of our days, and we wait for you to come to us. Amen.

***THE CONFESSION RESPONSE:*** “How Long?” *(music at end of bulletin)*

***THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE***

***SONG:*** “Messiah” *(music at end of bulletin)*

***MESSAGE IN WORD AND SONG:***

***“WAIT”***

***Help From Heaven***

***Make Room***

***Almost There***

***The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth***

***THE PRAYERS***

***THE LORD’S PRAYER:***

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

***THE SENDING OUT:***

One: Be people of hope. Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. Share hope by noticing someone else’s humanity. Share hope by

listening to someone's story. Share hope by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope. As you go into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet.

And the blessing of God Almighty, The Source of Our Being, The Light in Our Darkness, The Spirit of Wisdom in Our Seeking, rest upon you and remain within you, always.

**ALL: Amen.**

**THE SENDING SONG:** *“Come to be Our Hope O Jesus”*  
(music at end of bulletin)

**THE DISMISSAL:**

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**OUR Welcome IS WIDE OPEN**

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attender. Occasional attender. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry.** Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.

**COME as you are.**

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

O Come Let Us Adore Him

1. O come, let us a - dore Him, O  
 2. We'll praise His name for - ev - er, We'll  
 3. We'll give Him all the glo - ry, We'll  
 4. For You a - lone are wor - thy, For

come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -  
 praise His name for - ev - er, We'll praise His name for -  
 give Him all the glo - ry, We'll give Him all the  
 You a - lone are wor - thy, For You a - lone are

dore Him, \_\_\_\_\_ Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.  
 ev - er, \_\_\_\_\_ Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.  
 glo - ry, \_\_\_\_\_ Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.  
 wor - thy \_\_\_\_\_ Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.

How Long?

**Chorus**

How long will you hide from me, Oh, Lord? How long?  
 How long will you hide your face from me? How long?

**Verse 1**

How long till the wolf lies down with the lamb? How long?  
 We long to see you, great I Am. (chorus)

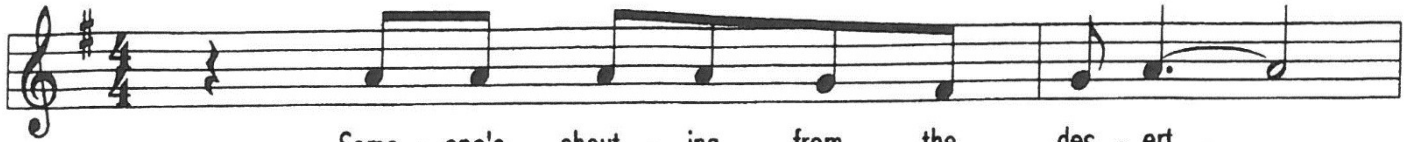
**Verse 2**

When will swords be - come that which plows the land. How long?  
 When will all as one to - geth - er stand? (chorus)

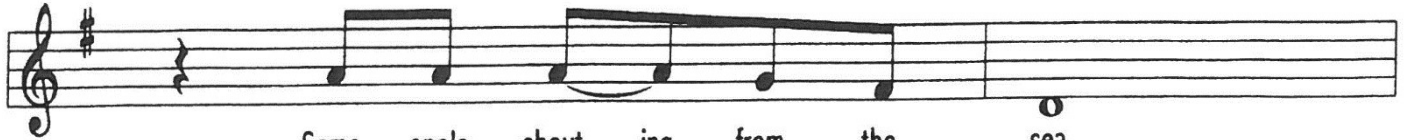
**Verse 3**

When will jus - tice flow \_\_\_\_\_ like a riv - er run - ning wide? We  
 long for you to come and sit, and be close by our side. (chorus)

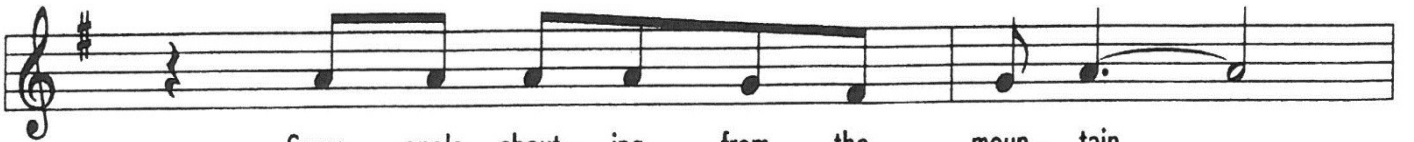
Messiah



Some - one's shout - ing from the des - ert\_.  
Some - one's shout - ing from the ci - ty  
Some - one's shout - ing I am brok - en



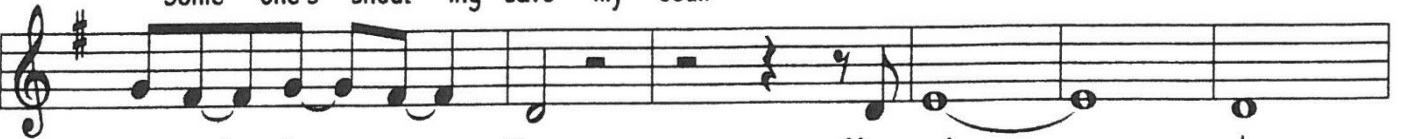
Some - one's shout - ing from the sea  
I am young\_ I am cold  
Some - one's shout - ing make me whole



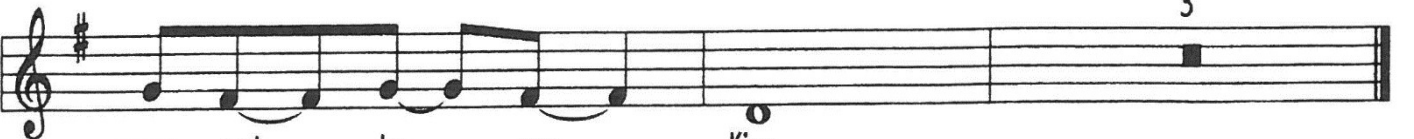
Some - one's shout - ing from the moun - tain  
Some - one's shout - ing from the coun - try  
Some - one's shout - ing come and change me



Some - one's shout - ing from the val - ley Mes - si\_ - ah,  
I am lone - ly I am old\_  
Some - one's shout - ing save my soul.



come and be our King. Mes - si\_ - ah,



come and be our King.

3

## Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

1. Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to  
2. Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the  
set road your peo - ple free. From op - pres - sion, come, re -  
road of ser - vant hood; give new life to ev - 'ry  
lease us, grant us your true lib - er - ty. Come, re -  
na - tion, changing e - vil in - to good. Come and  
lease from ev - 'ry pri - son those who  
o - pen our to - mor - row for your  
suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the  
joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man  
rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.  
sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

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