

Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle B

[Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11](#)

[2 Peter 3:8-14](#)

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

Light two purple candles on the Advent wreath.

We entered Advent last week reflecting on how deep we sent the need for God. This week we heighten our sense of waiting.

Opening prayer

The Presence of God

Bless all who worship you, almighty God.

From the rising of the sun to its setting;

from your goodness enrich us,

by your love inspire us,

by your spirit guide us,

by your power protect us,

in your mercy receive us,

Now and always.

Sacred Space, Advent 2020-2021

<https://www.amazon.com/Sacred-Advent-Christmas-Season-2020-21/dp/0829450157>

Focus question

What have you waited for in life?

Reflection

Waiting can be gleeful. Waiting can be frustrating. Waiting is an essential part of life. Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path," says John the Baptizer. John tells of one more powerful who is to come.

It offers us a time to anticipate easily the preparing for his coming. Waiting is both countercultural and difficult to practice. We also live in a time where Christmas trees and Christmas decorations go up the day after Halloween or Thanksgiving. Thinking is blurred by early Christmas parties and the rush of getting so many things done by Christmas Day.

Perhaps this time we are called to enter into add been in a spirit of repentance for the ways that we have failed to utilize the sacred time of preparation. It may be an opportunity for us to think of Advent as God waiting for us, waiting for us to be appreciative of the season, to value waiting. Most of us complain about the pace our everyday lives and how rushed we can be. Recently our world has forced us to slow down, to pause, to wait. By honoring the waiting that Advent can provide, we can open ourselves to an appreciation of the holy season, often in very surprising and unexpected ways.

May we make the advent season a time to be attentive to our own inner landscape so that we might be better able to make a space for ourselves, others, and most especially, for the Lord.

Out of stillness, and we will, perhaps, also discover an awakening to the social landscape, in awareness of where our Lord maybe calling us to act in the world around us for the sake of God's reign.

Consider the Scriptures and the questions below.

Who are the people who best illustrate to you and expecting, positive waiting?

How do you experience God coming to you in ordinary events of your life these days? How in where?

Response and action

For you: Set aside 15 minutes this week to reflect on your hopeful Christmas. Decide to make one change in your routine that will allow you to focus better on the kind of Christmas you truly desire. Do some journal writing about your experience with waiting. How is it positive? How is it a struggle? Try not wearing a wristwatch for one full day.

For family: Decided as a family ways you can simplify Christmas. How can you "make holy" ordinary traditions your family currently celebrates. As we approach the holidays with new limitations, how can you take past traditions, such as making cookies, or writing out Christmas cards, and turn them into prayerful moments. Say a prayer of thanks you have access to the ingredients needed to bake cookies, offer a prayer for those who will receive the cookies for the cards you will be sending .

To practice waiting. Try some centering prayer. To learn more about it, read finding Grace at the Center by Abbot Thomas Keating, M. Basil Pennington and Thomas E Clark.

Scripture reflections based upon the Quest publications from the Archdiocese of Hartford.