

# *Waiting Time*

A Quiet Prayer Service for Advent

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A Prayer Service at 4 p.m.  
Sunday, November 29, December 6, 13 and 20, 2020  
St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Kamloops  
Streamed virtually on:  
Cathedral Website: [kamloopsanglicancathedral.com](http://kamloopsanglicancathedral.com)  
[Cathedral Facebook Page](#)  
[Cathedral YouTube Channel](#)

THERE IS  
WONDER  
IN THE  
WAITING

## GREETING & EXPLANATION

### GATHERING & CANDLE LIGHTING

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression – shall be no more.

*Light the four advent candles*

Lord, by your presence,  
**light up the past**  
**that we might learn from it with thankfulness.**

Light up the present  
**that we might live in it with love.**

Light up the future  
**that we might prepare for it in hope.**

As we watch and wait and pray,  
**may we be always ready to encounter the Lord**  
**who is already and always with us.**  
**Amen.**

## MUSIC PLAYING

### WAITING PRAYER

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 that 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 unlovable;  
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 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.**  
**Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING *followed by three minutes of silence*

READING ON THE SCRIPTURE *followed by three minutes of silence*

SCRIPTURE READING REPEATED *followed by five minutes of silence*

### CLOSING PRAYER

What if the darkness covers us and the day around us turns to night?  
**Darkness is not too dark for God to whom dark and light are one.**

Let us pray:  
You never sleep, God.  
You are always awake, always watching, always willing the world and its people to turn  
towards you.

So, tonight, will you comfort those who cannot sleep  
because of illness,  
or worry  
or fear;  
or for reasons they cannot understand.

God be near them.  
**God be near them.**

And tonight will you be close to those who wait patiently or impatiently  
for birth  
or a death,  
for a visit,  
or for the pieces of their life's jigsaw to fit together.

God be near them.  
**God be near them.**

And tonight will you be close to those who wonder,  
who look for inspiration,  
who long to be with one or the ones they love,  
who hope to recognize the right time to say, "I'm sorry" or  
'I love you,"  
or even, 'Enough is enough.'

God be near them.  
**God be near them.**

And God, listen to us as we share with you whatever joys or sorrows,  
discoveries or questions we will take with us into the night.

God be near us.  
**God be near us.**

Into your hands we commit ourselves-  
our souls, our bodies, our minds, our futures –  
for all things come of you and are best kept in your care.  
**Amen.**

## **MUSIC PLAYING**

Resources used:  
*Iona Abbey Worship Book, The Iona Community, 2017*  
*Candles & Conifers, Ruth Burgess, 2005*  
*The Iona Community*