



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden

From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

Advent Devotional 2020

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The word advent encompasses several meanings, such as anticipation, expectation, coming, longing, desire, waiting, hope of promises fulfilled. We will explore some of these themes in these advent devotionals.

Scripture

Psalm 27:13-14

I believe I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

¹⁴ *Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!*

Psalm 40:1-3

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² *He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.*

³ *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.*

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalm 130:5-8

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶ *my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.*

⁷ *O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.*

⁸ *And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*

Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ *He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.*

³⁰ *Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;*

³¹ *but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;*

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Lamentations 3:22-27

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ *“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”*

²⁵ *The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.*

²⁶ *It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.*

²⁷ *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*

II Peter 3:8-9

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

My Soul in Stillness Waits

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
Truly my hope is in you.
O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
Your radiance shines in all who look to you,
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
Truly my hope is in you.
O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
Truly my hope is in you.
O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,
And in your advent, draw us all to you,
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
Truly my hope is in you.
O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain,
Open to us the pathway of your peace.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
Truly my hope is in you.
Come, let us bow before the God who made us,
Let ev'ry heart be opened to the Lord,
For we are all the people of his hand.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
Truly my hope is in you.
Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens,
Creator of the mountains and the seas,
Lord of the stars, and present to us now.

("My Soul in Stillness Waits" Words and music by Marty Haugen, © 1982 GIS Publications, Inc. CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

***II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, the Psalmist says be still and know that you are God. Stillness? Where can we find that? We are surrounded by noise, hurry and crowds. Sometimes the noise is good, kids and grandkids, friends and family. Sometimes the noise is self-inflicted, the TV or music always on. We don't allow a moment's silence, we are afraid of silence. What will we do, what will we say, or more scary, what might you say?

But, we admit we are weary, tired of all the running, all the busyness. Sometimes we long for some peace and quiet. Increase that longing and then fulfil it by calling us to yourself in Scripture and prayer, early in the morning, late at night, sometime around the Christmas tree.

We know Elijah did not hear from you in a strong wind, nor in an earthquake, nor in a fire either, but in a still small voice. Lord, teach us to look for you and listen for your still small voice in Scripture, prayer, reflection, meditation and worship (I Kings 19:10f).

Holy Father, deliver us from the static of our noisy world, social media, small talk, worthless entertainment. And worse still is the static of Satan's whispers, lies and condemnation. Enable us to answer as Jesus did, with truth from your Word. Draw us to yourself. In this Covid year deliver us from complacency, from missing opportunities in the changes of our lives and schedules to seek you and hear your voice. Give us a hunger and thirst for what truly satisfies our souls, souls you made for you, souls that are restless until they find their rest in you. Let this be a season of listening, waiting, longing, anticipating. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly Lord Jesus. Amen.