

**ADVENT MIDWEEK 1
WAIT UPON THE LORD
December 01, 2021
7 p.m.**

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

**L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

C: Amen.

L: Wait upon the Lord.

C: Be strong and courageous.

**L: Wait upon the Lord. That's what Abraham did,
even though he was about a hundred years old.**

C: And Sarah's womb was barren.

L: Still, Abraham waited in faith.

C: Fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

L: Wait upon the Lord.

C: Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

HYMN No. 357 O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VSS. 1,2,6,7)

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. (refrain)**

Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to fight.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. (refrain)

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS (spoken responsively)

L: God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with you. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.

L: Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

C: Amen.

L: Wait upon the Lord.

C: Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

**SONG OF PRAISE "El Shaddai" W&M by Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith
CCLI 691913**

Refrain: El Shaddai El Shaddai, El Elyon na Adonai
Age to age, You're still the same
By the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Er kamka na Adonai
We will praise and lift You high, El Shaddai

Through Your love and through the Lamb
You saved the son of Abraham
Through the power of Your hand
You turned the sea into dry land

To the outcast on her knees
You were the God who really sees,
And by Your might You set Your children free (Refrain)

Refrain: El Shaddai El Shaddai, El Elyon na Adonai
Age to age, You're still the same
By the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Er kamka na Adonai
We will praise and lift You high, El Shaddai

Through the years You made it clear
That the time of Christ was near
Though the people couldn't see
What Messiah ought to be

Though Your Word contained the plan
They just couldn't understand
Your most awesome work was done
Through the frailty of Your Son. (Refrain)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Abraham and Sarah; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—God forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT , Genesis 17:1-9

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, “Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.” And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE Romans 4:13-21

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

L: Allelula! Alleluia!

C Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 1:16-25

L: The Gospel according to St Matthew, the first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

L: And Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SONG OF FAITH "In Christ Alone" (My Hope is Found)

W&M by Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend

c. 200 Thank You Music

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.**

**'Till on the cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!**

SERMON "Wait Upon the Lord with Faith" Pastor Vern

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Nathan)

**L: Heavenly Father, we wait for you.
C: More than watchmen wait for the morning—

L: More than watchmen wait for the morning.
C: Lead us in your truth and teach us.

L: For you are the God of our salvation.
C: For you we wait all the day long.

L: O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.
C: Serve you joyfully.**

L: And give to others generously.
C: Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.

L: Courage for the fainthearted.
C: Hope for the discouraged.

L: And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Remember us in Your kingdom Lord, and teach us to pray:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...,

BLESSING OF THE LORD

L: May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.
C: As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.

CLOSING HYMN **"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
C: Thanks be to God!