

The Gifts of Advent: Patience

December 2, 2018: Week 1 of Advent



Gifts of Advent

Week 1: The Gift of Patience

Week 2: The Gift of Speech and Silence

Week 3: The Gift of Hope

Week 4: The Gift of Family

Use this weekly advent devotional for you to use at home, in the car, while waiting, at work, alone, with family, or in a group. This is for you! Advent preparations. If you would like to follow along with Pastor Angela, check out the Living Saviour YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuMJ5vxpQpMZLB8638JxE_w

The Gift of Patience

Waiting is hard. We eagerly anticipate the desires of our hearts and want them to come soon. We wait for the first day of school or the first snowfall. We wait to see a loved one or to hear a doctor's news. Just as the farmer waits for crops or the fig tree waits for summer, we are reminded to be patient until the coming of the Lord.

Gather

Gather your thoughts, family, friends, self, as we begin. You may speak the words of the dialogue, or silently read them.

“Patience is a virtue,” we hear it said.

But the wait is long; we cannot see the end.

“Rome wasn’t built in just a day.”

We rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him.

“Patience is also a form of action.”

So we run with endurance the race set before us.

“How poor are they that have not patience!”

We are rich in our hope of the promised Messiah.

Come, Lord Jesus!



Light your candle

At this time, light the first candle on your Advent Wreath. If you don't have one, you can simply light a candle of any kind, even turn on a battery powered one.

Sing/Listen

ELW Hymnal Song 262

'Wait for the Lord, a Taize song, is a repetitive one designed to help you quiet and gather your mind for prayer and worship.

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!*

If you have a computer, phone, or tablet, try this link
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37k20ZZ9h-A&start_radio=1&list=RD37k20ZZ9h-A

Sing, hum, listen, for as long as you would like.
When you are ready, pray the following:

O God for whom we long, we thank you for the gift of patience.
Grant peace in our hearts as we wait with hope that we may sing
with Simeon:

**My eyes have seen your salvation, a light to reveal you to the
nations and the glory of your people Israel.**

We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, your gift to all the
world. **Amen.**

Scripture

*A reading from the letter of James, in the New Testament. James
5:7-11 Common English Bible (CEB)*

⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait
for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits
patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking
forward to the precious fruit of the earth. ⁸ You also must wait
patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the
Lord is near. ⁹ Don't complain about each other, brothers and
sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing
at the door!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name
of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

¹¹ Look at how we honor those who have practiced endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job. And you have seen what the Lord has accomplished, for the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

At the conclusion of the reading, *“God’s words of life for God’s people”*

Reflection

If you are not watching the You Tube recording of this Advent worship, simply sit in quiet and reread the passage, asking God to highlight anything you should notice. Give thanks at the end of your time.

Some reflection questions:

Why does God want us to develop patience as a spiritual discipline or practice?

What creates impatience in us? Is that something we should confess? Ask God to transform? Are we happy with our impatience?

What value is there in developing the skill of patient waiting? How would this benefit you as a disciple? Us as a congregation?

What does patient waiting look like? How would prayer, listening for God play a role in that skill?

Prayers

For this time of waiting and watching for the coming of our Savior, **we give you thanks, O Lord.**

When the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, **we cry to you, O Lord.**

For the hope that shines through the darkest night, **we turn to you, O Lord.**

For the gift of friends and family who walk with us through life, **we praise your name, O Lord.**

For those affected by fire, hurricane, flood, trouble, trauma of any kind, **we pray for your peace, healing, patience.**

For those who are unemployed, underemployed, seeking change,
we pray your guidance, help, trust, O Lord.

For those who sorrow in this time of year, **we cry for you to
come, O Lord.**

Gather us all under the promise of your Son, who taught us to
pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Song

*If you have a computer, phone, or tablet, try this link for the
closing song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOxJFN-9_vs*

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
or if musical, sing ELW Hymnal Song 254

Blessing

The peace of God accompany your waiting,
the light of Christ warm your hearts,
and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

"Patience is a virtue . . .": Traced to William Langland, *Piers Plowman* (1377).

"Rome wasn't built . . .": English translation (from the French) included in *The proverbs, epigrams, and miscellanies of John Heywood* (1906).

"Patience is also . . .": Auguste Rodin

"How poor are they . . .": William Shakespeare, *Othello*, Act 2, Scene 3.

"Savior of the nations, come" (ELW 263): Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

December Events:

Sunday December 2, Super Sunday Fun-day, 11:30-12:30 following Traditional worship, Lunch and Advent Event for all ages

Sunday December 9, 3:00 p.m. Christmas Concert, in the Sanctuary, choirs, hand bells, orchestral musicians all combine to present the sounds of the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Saturday December 15, 8:30-10:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa, get tickets in advance.

Sunday December 16, 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship with Children's Christmas Program presentation.

Monday December 24, 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship services, all with candles and Holy Communion.

Sunday December 30, 8:30 and 10:30 Worship services

Lighting the Christmas Tree

Use this prayer sometime during the Christmas season to remind yourselves that Christ is the heart of Christmas.

Holy God,
we praise you as we light this tree. It gives light to this place as you shine light into darkness through Jesus, the light of the world.

God of all,
we thank you for your love, the love that has come to us in Jesus. Be with us now as we remember that gift of love and help us to share that love with a yearning world.

Creator God,
you made the stars in the heavens. Thank you for the light that shines on us in Jesus, the bright morning star.

Amen.

From sundaysandseasons.com.