

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

DECEMBER 2021

Week 1 – Watching and Waiting

Leader: Advent again telling me to be still and listen and
let go and wonder.

I'll try God. I want to.

I want love. I want life.

Opening Responses

As farmers wait for rainfall

As prisoners wait for freedom

WE WAIT FOR THE COMING OF GOD

As exiles yearn for home

As peacemakers yearn for justice

WE LONG FOR THE COMING OF GOD

As travellers search for shelter

As disciples look for answers

WE PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF GOD

You might want to read an **Advent hymn**.

Read: Psalm 122

Prayer

Loving God, we gather in this season of promise to worship you and sing your praise.

We praise you for your love and for your faithfulness, for you are the source of all hope and from you all joy springs.

You are the one we expect, but your coming is always unexpected.

You are the one who turns everything upside down and you make all things new.

Advent God of surprises, we worship you and we wait for you to awaken our wonder and astound us with your arrival.

Merciful God, forgive that we fall asleep when you call us to watch and pray.

WE FAIL TO SEE THE SIGNS OF YOUR COMING

Christ our Saviour, forgive that we are not watchful; we do not choose hope or plant the seeds of hopefulness.

WE FAIL TO SEE THE SIGNS OF YOUR COMING.

Forgiving Spirit, forgive that in the rush of the Christmas season we forget to stop and listen for the sound of angel voices; we forget to stop and look for a star to lead us to Christ.

WE FAIL TO SEE THE SIGNS OF GOD'S PRESENCE.

God over all,
Christ within us,
Spirit around us,

hear our prayer and send your messenger of peace to us and to the sleeping world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ in whose words we pray further together, saying:

OUR FATHER

Read: Isaiah 2 verses 1 - 5

Matthew 25 verses 1 - 13

Reflection

This should take the form of an introduction from the leader of 5 – 7 minutes **maximum**, and designed to stimulate discussion on the subject.

Today discussion might take place about:

What are we waiting for in Advent?

What do we prepare for in Advent?

What do we hope for or expect?

This part of the service might involve music or something visual; it might involve silence.

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world; for the communities in which we live; for the Church in our land and our own congregations here in Dalmeny and Queensferry; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING PRAYER

We have walked in the wilderness;

We have waited and wondered.

MAY GOD BLESS US AS WE WAIT FOR A CHILD'S CRY

We have seen injustice;

We have brought God our questions.

MAY GOD BLESS US IN DARKNESS AND LIGHT

We sometimes feel overwhelmed by the rush in the days before Christmas.

We have looked for a Saviour.

**MAY GOD BLESS US AS CHRISTMAS DRAWS NEAR
WITH WONDER AND JUSTICE AND HOPE.**