

## Waiting for Love -- Advent



**Call to Prayer** Leader: "... dear Advent so near -- a long sigh to the long-looked for advent, but I am far from being *ready*..."

Writings of Elizabeth Ann Seton Volume 2, #6.216, 27th November 1815, p. 361

**ALL:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

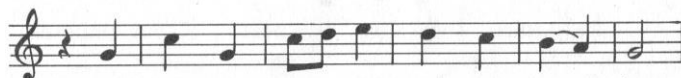
### Hymn "Wake, Awake" verses 1, 3

Melvin Farrell, S. S.

Philip Nicolai, 1599



1. Wake, a - wake, the night is dy - ing,
2. We shall heed the proph-ets' warn - ing,
3. Let the shad - ows be for - sak - en:



1. And proph-ets from of old are cry - ing:
2. And rise to greet the Prince of Morn - ing:
3. The time has come for us to wak - en,



1. A - wake, ye chil - dren of the light!
2. His gen - tle rule shall bring us peace.
3. And to the Day our lives en - trust.



1. Lo, the Dawn shall ban - ish sad - ness,
2. Love and mer - cy are his treas - ure,
3. Search the sky for heav - en's por - tal:



1. The Ris - ing Sun shall bring us glad - ness,
2. The seas and skies o - bey his pleas - ure:
3. The clouds shall rain the Light Im - mor - tal,



1. And all the blind shall see a - right.
2. His might - y rule shall nev - er cease.
3. And earth will soon bud forth the Just.

#### REFRAIN



Re - joice, the King is near, Our prais - es



he will hear, al - le - lu - ia!



But we must be Pre - pared to



see The Bright - ness of e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Melvin Farrell; Melody: Wachert Auf 898.898.664.448, Philip Nicolai, 1599  
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**Reading** "Now, this beautiful season of Advent -- do try to take its spirit, my friend; to think of it ... You have so many opportunities to love our Jesus in his poor -- to make the little Babe so many presents before Christmas comes. You know ... he is our tender Babe, stretching his arms ... for us ..."

Writings of Elizabeth Ann Seton Volume 2, #7.316, December, after 1810, p. 703

**Antiphon** ALL: "O sweet Infant ..., how do I love thee ... may [I] love more and better serve..." Writings of Elizabeth Ann Seton Volume 2, #9.18 Advent/Christmas Meditations, p. 339

### Psalm 27

- I. The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?
- II. One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.



I. Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path ... I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

II. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart. Wait for the Lord.

adapted from New International Version

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was  
in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**



**Reading "Advent"**

This painting, for me, came out of a sense of waiting – of expectation. Mary is soon to give birth to Jesus. She is searching, watching, waiting. The star in the sky is also watching – waiting. The world is in a place of waiting ... We await the Christ-child.

This sense of searching, waiting and watching captures the spirit of Advent, the season in which we long for both our celebration of Jesus birth at Christmas and for his return in glory. We await the Light, the Love of the World.

adapted from artist, Roger Hutchinson

**Response** (sing)

Rejoice, the King is near; our praises He will hear, Alleluia!  
But we must be prepared to see the brightness of eternity.

**Personal Reflection**

**In Advent, how do I prepare spiritually for God's gift of love, Jesus?  
How can my waiting, watching grace my life as a Lady of Charity?**

**Prayer "Magnificat of Waiting for the Fullness of Time"**

**ALL:** My soul reflects quietly on your fullness,  
and my spirit grows stronger in the hope of your promise,  
... because you have filled me with the knowing that you are alive within me. ...  
Holy is this time and patience is your gift to all who nurture the seed of your love.  
You have changed my life ... You are here now in this seeming emptiness of waiting,  
... remembering your intent to reach through the work of my life  
that your fullness may be known now, in our time. Amen.

(Luke 1: 56) Miriam of Nazareth by Ann Johnson, pp.79-80

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**Prayer Texts**

**Mark 1: 2-8**

"Make ready the way of the Lord."

**Philippians 4: 4-7**

"The Lord is near. Dismiss all anxiety ..."



## "W" in Christmas



Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations -- extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating and EVEN overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial-entertainment songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title. Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row -- center stage -- held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love." The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her: a small, quiet girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down -- totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W." Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen.

In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place; why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

**"CHRISTWASLOVE"**

And, I believe, He still is. Be amazed and grateful for His love.

Always remember the reason for the season:

**our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

