

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

Waiting for Our Lord

TUNE: O Little Town of Bethlehem (ST. LOUIS)

Matthew 24:36-44; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 21:25-36; Romans 8:22-26

♩ = 84

F F F° F F#°7/Bb Gm/Bb E/C C E/C7 C7/E F

1. O God of love and faith - ful - ness, We wait that day un - known When
2. Our hun - gry hearts an - ti - ci - pate The joy that soon will be, When

F F#°7/Bb D D7 Gsus Gm Gm/Bb E/C C+ F/C Am/C7 F

all our dark - ness, all our grief Dis - solve in You a - lone. Like
love has borne de - li - cious fruit For all to taste and see. O

F Gm6 G#°7 A N.C. Gm/Bb A F

Mar - y in her la - bor En - gulfed by waves of pain, We
come to us, Lord Je - sus! We're watch - ing at the door Till

F F° F F#°7/Bb Gm/Bb Bb E/C G7/D F/C C7 F

cry from all - con - sum - ing need That words could nev - er frame.
just one glimpse of You ful - fills Our hopes and so much more!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner

ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6.

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TOPICS: Advent; Eternal Life

LEAD-IN: *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Romans 8:22-25, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

We Wait

Romans 8 tell us:

The whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

For in this hope we were saved.

But hope that is seen is no hope at all.

Who hopes for what he already has?

But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (vv.22-25, NIV)

So Father, we wait.

Basking in the joy and freedom of all You've given us in Jesus Christ,
we eagerly await His return and
the completion of all Your love has planned.

We wait.

Immersed in disappointments and delays,
weakness and uncertainty,
decay and death,

we keep our faith focused on You.

Though we cannot see,

we cling to the strong and certain hope that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Day by day, in the noise and in the silence, our hearts forever cry,

"Father, may *Your* Kingdom come and

Your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven!"

We wait.

So many are deluded,

lost in the darkness of the small and temporary.

In You we glimpse bigger realities.

Our physical world seems so lasting and all-encompassing,

but it will burn away like a morning mist.
Father, don't let it seduce us.
You are truth.
You are unchanging.
You are forever.

In this false world, keep us faithful in proclaiming the ultimate things:
the return of Jesus,
the judgment, and
the world to come.

Whether He returns today or in ten thousand years is not the point.
The truth of His return shapes the entire reality in which we live.

Our Father, we look forward to the day when all creation rings with
the music and the beautiful silence of all You are.

As we believers wait together,
enduring these last hours of pain, darkness, grief, and death,
we'll encourage one another to the hope and joy that are ours in You.
We'll share songs, stories, and acts of kindness that remind us of
Your eternal, unfailing love.

*Father, I will remain dressed and ready,
at my post and fully engaged in the ministry
You have assigned me,
with my heart fixed on You.*

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