

**Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
24th November 2020**

READINGS

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV)

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

James 5:7-8

Waiting means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusions.

Eugene H. Peterson



REFLECTION

2020 has been a year of waiting. Waiting during lockdown, waiting for the end of lockdown, waiting each day for the First Minister's press conference to hear the numbers and the latest news about the virus, waiting for a vaccine, waiting for things to get back to normal. Waiting, waiting, waiting.

Waiting is frustrating. It means we can't have what we want now, it means we are in limbo, not where we want to be. Waiting, waiting, waiting.

Later this week we start the season of Advent. That Christian season of waiting. Waiting for the celebration of Christmas, waiting for the Christ-child to come, waiting for the good news. That's an even more difficult thing to do this year. We need something cheerful in our lives, we need something positive. But even that is difficult this year as we wait to hear if, and how, families will be allowed to come together at Christmas time. More waiting, waiting, waiting.

Our quotations today show us that waiting has always been a part of faith, waiting has always been a part of our relationship with God.

However, waiting in faith, does not mean doing nothing. Each advent we are reminded that waiting for God is an active, not a passive, thing. Waiting is an action, not a lack of action.

Waiting means trust. We wait on God, because we trust that God will act, We trust that God loves us, and in that love, God will burst forth blessings into our lives, in that love, God will guide and lead and care for us.

Waiting means getting ready. Because we trust that God will act, we get ready to receive God's blessing, we get ready for the Christ-child to come. We get ready respond to God's call.

Waiting has a positive effect on those who wait. Waiting for God generates hope, waiting on God brings a peace which defies circumstance.

Advent, the season of waiting, is filled with opportunities to get ready. The season is filled with the chance to focus again on God's love, to dedicate ourselves once more to God's service, to train our eyes and our lives to recognise God's action in our world, to spend out time in devotion and prayer and praise.

Advent, the season of waiting, is our chance to get ready for God, to prepare ourselves. How will you wait this Advent season?

PRAYER

Almighty God,
You were there before time's first tick,
And you will there after time has counted its last moment:
The seconds, minutes and hours have no effect upon you,
Eternal one,
You are not defined by days and weeks and months and years,

The passing of the hours does not control you.
You are God without limit,
You are Lord forever.

When we are worried for the present
And afraid of the future
Remind us, Lord, that you are with us.

When we feel alone and lost,
Uncertain and adrift
Remind us, Lord, that you are with us.

When our faith seems empty,
Devoid of hope,
Overcome by events,
Remind us, Lord, that you are with us.

When we are tired of waiting,
Saddened by life,
Hurting and questioning,
Remind us, Lord, that you are with us.

Remind us Lord that you are with us,
Your love and your care are upon us,
You watch over us and you wait with us,
And we are not alone.

Eternal, all powerful,
Ever loving, gracious God,
Remind us that you are with us,
and we are never out of your loving sight,
never beyond the reach of your loving care.

Remind us, Lord that you are with us.

Amen

