

Advent – The Waiting Time

You keep us waiting,
You the God of all time,
Want us to wait
For the right time in which to discover
Who we are, where we must go,
Who will be with us, and what we must do.

So thank youfor the waiting time.

You keep us looking
You, the God of all space,
Want us to look in the right and wrong places
For signs of hope,
For people who are hopeless,
For visions of a better world which will appear
Among the disappointments of the world we know.

So thank you...for the looking time.

You keep us loving,
You the God whose name is love,
Want us to be like you –
To love the loveless and the unlovely and the un-loveable;
To love without jealousy or design or threat;
And most difficult of all,
To love ourselves.

So thank you.....for the loving time.

And in all this -You keep us
Through hard questions with no easy answers;
Through failing where we hoped to succeed
And making an impact when we felt we were useless;
Through the patience and the dreams and the love of others;
And through Jesus Christ and his Spirit,
You keep us

**So thank you... for the keeping time,
And for now, and for ever. Amen.**



WAITING:

Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. But waiting as a disciple of Jesus is not an empty waiting. It is a waiting with a promise in our hearts that makes already present what we are waiting for. We wait during Advent for the birth of Jesus. We wait after Easter for the coming of the Spirit, and after the Ascension of Jesus we wait for his coming again in glory. We are always waiting, but it is a waiting in the conviction that we have already seen God's footsteps.

Waiting for God is an active, alert—yes, joyful—waiting. As we wait we remember him for whom we are waiting, and as we remember him we create a community ready to welcome him when he comes.