

## *A Season of Waiting and Watching*

### *Introduction*

This is certainly an “unusual” season in which we live.

Life is not “as usual”.

This unusual has provided us with a somewhat dictated quiet. A season of waiting and watching. However, we typically are not happy with waiting and watching.

We wait to see what new restrictions, ones we won't be able to understand, are pronounced upon us. We watch and wait on election results. We watch to see who's getting too close to us in the grocery store. We wait on toilet paper and hand sanitizer. We wait 14 days. We watch for a temperature or a cough. We wait and watch some more. Most of all, we watch and wait for everything to get back to “usual.” We are on the lookout for “usual.”

For the people of God, waiting and watching *IS* the “usual.”

Waiting and watching for God are at the foundation of the gospel story.

Creation waits.

Prophets wait.

Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, the disciples hidden in fear after the crucifixion were all “wait-ers” and “watch-ers”

God's people are designed to wait on God, to watch His movement

What seems to be a hindrance—having to wait with patience, to hope rather than realize, to be still and watch rather than do, fix and control; are actually, *NOT* hindrances to our heavenly Father. Waiting and watching—it is the way. Waiting and watching is not an obstacle, but rather a door, a passage.

Following is a brief devotional reading for each of the weeks in December. They include a passage from Scripture to be considered; as well as a “Waiting in Wonder” assignment to be practiced during the week. Also, you will find a “Watchword” for each week. Repeat this phrase as often as you remember to help return your focus to “waiting” and “watching” for the Messiah.

Each week, as a group gathered at the FBC building on Sunday mornings, we will light a candle to draw us back to our Waiting and Watching focus and light for us a new thought for the upcoming week. Light your own candle as you practice waiting and watching along with us, virtually at home.

## WEEK TWO: 3 Sundays before Christmas

Wait! . . . Watch! . . . Christ is coming! Salvation is on the way.

This week we light the candle of “BEGINNING”:  
In the beginning was The Word.  
It is a light to remind us of Love and Hope.

### Reading:

*In the beginning was the Word  
And the Word was with God  
And the Word was God  
He was with God in the beginning.  
In Him was life.  
And that life was the light of men.  
And God so loved the world the He gave.  
He gave his one and only Son, Jesus Christ.  
That whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
Because of this,  
I pray that you will grasp how wide and long and high and deep  
Is the love of Christ  
And that this love, which surpasses knowledge, may fill you to the measure of  
The fullness of God.  
—John 1:1-4; 3:16; Ephesians 3:18-19*

Today and in the coming week, as we wait and watch, may we understand the love of God and the hope it brings. When we faithfully wait and watch for God, we position ourselves to understand this great love. As we increasingly are filled with the fullness of the knowledge of the love of God for us, the fullness of God, we are able to better wait and watch in hope. A holy cycle of dependence.

The father’s love, His fullness, is wide enough to hold all our fears. What love! What hope!  
His love is long enough to hold all our grief and sadness. What love! What hope!  
The father’s love, His fullness is high enough to hold all our failures. What love! What hope!  
His love is deep enough to hold all our confusion and worry. What love—what hope!

God came to us through Jesus Christ, the Word. The advent. From the beginning, the Word came, independent of my feelings, my performance, my goodness. It was God’s initiative.  
*What love—what hope!*

Waiting in Wonder (a small “waiting and watching” assignment to help us focus on today’s truths throughout the week):

This week, as we watch and wait, pray a prayer—

*“O God of the beginning, O Word of love and hope—teach me the fullness of yourself, the fullness of your love. Bring understanding to my soul. In that understanding may I be still in Hope. For hope does not disappoint. As I humbly watch and wait on you, as I empty myself of my agendas and purposes, may I be filled up with the fullness of You.”*

John tells us that this love of God prompted him to give. To give himself. Record ways that the Father continues to “give of Himself” in your life this week. In prayer, offer each gift back to Him as a thank offering. Let your thank offerings, Prepare the way of the Lord!

Watchword (a phrase to repeat over and over this week to keep our focus on Christ’s coming):  
What love! What hope!

*O come, O come Emmanuel  
O come and cheer Our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, of fear, of sadness and sorrow  
as we realize the fullness of your love.  
Rejoice, rejoice  
God is with us*