

*Joanna*

# **WE ARE WAITING FOR THE MESSIAH**

## **Introduction for all four Sundays of Advent**

- 1 Reader : We are waiting for the Messiah.  
1 & 2 Reader : We are waiting for the Lord.  
2 Reader : In the middle of our living.  
ALL : We are waiting for the Lord.  
1 Reader : In the middle of our struggles.  
ALL : We are waiting for the Lord.  
2 Reader : In the middle of our ecstasies and agonies.  
ALL : We are waiting for the Lord.  
1 Reader : In the middle of our ordinaries – rhythms, ruts and routines.  
ALL : We are waiting for the Lord.  
2 Reader : In the middle of our crises – identity, family, vocational.  
ALL : We are waiting for the Lord.

## **First Sunday of Advent**

- 1 Reader : Among us are those who are feeling some darkness.  
2 Reader : Among us are those who are feeling the darkness of despair.  
MEN : Despair of broken relationships.  
WOMEN : Despair of loved ones lost.  
MEN : Despair of loneliness.  
WOMEN : Despair that things will never be the same.  
MEN : Despair that things will always be the same.  
WOMEN : Despair we can name.  
MEN : Despair we cannot name.
- 1 Reader : And the darkness of despair envelops the soul;  
the darkness of despair makes heavy the heart.  
2 Reader : And into our despair comes the word of Isaiah;  
into our despair comes the word of the Lord.  
1 & 2 Reader : The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light. The  
light shines in the darkness - and the darkness has never put it out.  
1 Reader : And those words gently pierce through the darkness.  
2 Reader : Those words softly lighten the heart.

1 & 2 Reader : And the ones who are feeling the darkness of despair say:  
 ALL : Yes, I am seeing the light.  
 WOMEN : I am seeing the light of hope even in the midst of despair.  
 MEN : I am seeing the light of hope for a brighter tomorrow.

1 Reader : And that hope gently pierces the darkness.  
 2 Reader : And that hope softly lightens the heart.

## Second Sunday of Advent

1 Reader : Among us are those who are feeling some darkness.  
 2 Reader : Among us are those who are feeling the darkness of fear.  
 MEN : Fear of the future.  
 WOMEN : Fear of the present.  
 MEN : Fear of the past.  
 WOMEN : Fear of rejection.  
 MEN : Fear of failure.  
 WOMEN : Fear of success.  
 MEN : Fear of hate.  
 WOMEN : Fear of love.  
 MEN : Fear of aloneness.  
 WOMEN : Fear of closeness.  
 MEN : Fears we can name.  
 WOMEN : Fears we cannot name.

1 Reader : And the darkness of fear envelops the soul;  
 the darkness of fear makes heavy the heart.  
 2 Reader : And into our fear comes the word of Isaiah;  
 into our fear comes the word of the Lord.

1 & 2 Reader : The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light. The  
 light shines in the darkness – and the darkness has never put it out.

1 Reader : And those words gently pierce through the darkness.  
 2 Reader : Those words softly lighten the heart.

1 & 2 Reader : And the ones who are feeling the darkness of fear say:  
 ALL : Yes, I am seeing the light.  
 WOMEN : I am seeing the light of love which frees from all fear.  
 MEN : I am seeing the light of love which can accept the past, present, and  
 future.  
 WOMEN : I am seeing the light of love which knows no limits.

1 Reader : And that love gently pierces the darkness.  
 2 Reader : And that love softly lightens the heart.

### Third Sunday of Advent

- 1 Reader : Among us are those who are feeling some darkness.  
2 Reader : Among us are those who are feeling the darkness of cynicism.  
MEN : The cynicism of 'you've got to look out for number one.'  
WOMEN : The cynicism of 'you can't trust anyone.'  
MEN : The cynicism of 'nothing really matters.'  
WOMEN : The cynicism of 'God doesn't really care.'
- 1 Reader : And the darkness of cynicism envelops the soul;  
the darkness of cynicism makes heavy the heart.  
2 Reader : And into our cynicism comes the word of Isaiah;  
into our cynicism comes the word of the Lord.  
1 & 2 Reader : The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light. The  
light shines in the darkness – and the darkness has never put it out.  
1 Reader : And those words gently pierce through the darkness.  
2 Reader : Those words softly lighten the heart.  
1 & 2 Reader : And the ones who are feeling the darkness of cynicism say:  
ALL : Yes, I am seeing the light.  
MEN : I am seeing the light of a life with compassion.  
WOMEN : I am seeing the light of trust for another.  
MEN : I am seeing the light of faith.
- 1 Reader : And that faith gently pierces the darkness.  
2 Reader : And that faith softly lightens the heart.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 1 Reader : Among and beyond us are those who are feeling darkness.  
2 Reader : Among and beyond us are those who are feeling the darkness of  
oppression.  
WOMEN : The oppression of being unheard, unseen, unpeople.  
MEN : The oppression of being jobless.  
WOMEN : The oppression of being foodless.  
MEN : The oppression of being homeless.  
WOMEN : The oppression of being friendless.  
MEN : The oppression of being hopeless.  
WOMEN : The oppression of systems which thrive at the top and deprive at the  
bottom.
- 1 Reader : And the darkness of oppression envelops the soul;  
the darkness of oppression makes heavy the heart.

- 2 Reader : And into this oppression comes the word of Isaiah;  
into this oppression comes the word of the Lord.
- 1 & 2 Reader : The people who walk in the darkness have seen a great light. The  
light shines in the darkness – and the darkness has never put it out.
- 1 Reader : And those words gently pierce through the darkness.
- 2 Reader : Those words softly lighten the heart.
- 1 & 2 Reader : And the ones who are feeling the darkness of oppression say:
- ALL : Yes, I am seeing the light.
- MEN : I am seeing the light of a new society.
- WOMEN : I am seeing the light of a people striving for justice.
- MEN : I am seeing the light of the dream of a new world.
- 1 Reader : And that dream gently pierces the darkness.
- 2 Reader : And that dream softly lightens the heart.

Adapted from a text by: Peter J. Ediger

## Our darkness

## La ténèbre

$\text{♩} = 66$  F# Bm Am D G F#

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the  
La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la

Bm A D Em<sup>6</sup> F#<sup>SUS</sup> fine F#

deep - est night is clear as the day light. Our  
nuit com - me le jour est lu - mière re. La té -

*fine*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features two systems of music. The first system is for the first part of the text, and the second system is for the second part. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 66. The score includes lyrics in English and French, with musical notation for both voice and piano accompaniment. Chord symbols are provided above the staff. The piece concludes with a 'fine' marking and a final chord of F#.