

# HOPE



**Pilgrim**  
Uniting Church

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**Pilgrim**  
Uniting Church

9.30am  
Community Worship

Sunday, 1st December 2019

Advent 1 - Hope Can't Wait  
COCUIA

The text "WHAT CAN'T WAIT" is written in a bold, purple, distressed font. A yellow star on a thin yellow pole is positioned to the right of the text, appearing to shine through the letters.

INTRODUCING OUR ADVENT THEME: "What can't wait?"

CALL TO WORSHIP

What can't wait?

**Hope for a better day.**

What can't wait?

**Peace and repentance, among and within us**

What can't wait?

**Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.**

What can't wait?

**Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.**

God is waiting, and God is ready.

**Starting here and now-let us worship Holy God.**

**Amen.**

[www.pilgrim.org.au](http://www.pilgrim.org.au) | [facebook.com/pilgrimunitingchurch](https://facebook.com/pilgrimunitingchurch)

SONG: HaND 16 Here's a new day

Words: Helen Wiltshire  
Tune: Woodlands

1.  
Here's a new day,  
fresh gift from God of grace.  
We sense God's presence in this  
sacred space;  
let us be mindful of God's blessing  
here,  
pausing, rejoicing, held in God's  
good care.

2.  
Here in awareness,  
gift from God of grace,  
may we awaken in this sacred space,  
moved to compassion, open heart  
and hand,  
linked to each other, meeting love's  
demand.

3.  
Here in creation,  
gift from God of grace,  
divine embracing of the human  
race;  
woven together, intimate and free,  
holy the ground connecting you  
and me.

4.  
Here in belonging,  
gift from God of grace,  
interconnected in this sacred  
space,  
and in the web of life each one may  
share,  
held in God's love, surrounded by  
God's care.

GOD'S PROMISED DAY – **HOPE CAN'T WAIT**

Hope is gravity for the broken—

**pulling us up.**

Hope is manna in the wilderness

**when we want to give up.**

Hope is seeing stars in the city

**when we forget the sky is there.**

Hope is the anthem of faith

**and the reason we're here.**

So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,

**for the God of new life is drawing near.**

Let us worship Holy God.

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

VIDEO: "The little engine that could"

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

**Voice A:** I will wait for coffee to brew.

**Voice B:** I will wait for traffic to clear.

**Voice A:** I will wait for fruit to ripen.

**Voice B:** I will wait for flowers to grow.

**Voice A:** I will wait for seasons to change.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the sun to rise.

*This service was prepared by Denise Griffen and Greg Elsdon.  
Norm Inglis led our musicians, and Don Bell our singing.  
Thank you to Allan Forbes for looking after the AV desk and  
to everyone else who was involved in the preparation  
and leadership of this service.*

Acknowledgements:

*"The Little Engine That Could" by Watty Piper (This was written in 1930.  
Since then our attitude to using fossil fuels has changed.  
PUC does not endorse the use of coal to power trains.)*

Resources purchased from [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

"What can't wait" prayers and candle lighting liturgy by Sarah Are | A  
Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

WHAT CAN'T WAIT LOGOS *Inspired by What Can't Wait?*  
Theme by Lauren Wright Pittman

"Fiver for a Farmer" video from <https://afiverforafarmer.com.au/>

Nativity Scene © Can Stock Photo / leonardo255

## OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Waiting and watching are not always our strong suits.  
Sometimes we long for instant solutions  
and refuse to pause and listen for truth.

*silence for reflection*

Sometimes we are so impatient  
that we decide without allowing for inspiration.

**May we be patient, with ourselves and each other.**

*silence for reflection*

Hope is often hard to hold.  
We become depressed and discouraged  
and turn away from hope; let go of promises.

*silence for reflection*

The promises of God are wider than the ocean,  
deeper than the earth,  
and higher than the skies.  
Grace will never fail us.

**Thanks be to God.**

SONG: Sfp 23                      Hope forever born

## WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

We are sent out from our service of worship, to worship God in Service

– to be God’s people for Christ and for the world.

As you enjoy the goodness of God’s love today among friends and family,  
and in the goodness of creation, walk in the light of the Risen Lord ...

May the keeping of Christ be about you.

May the guarding of God be with you

to possess you,

to protect you,

to accompany you on all your paths,

through trouble,

through danger,

through loss.

And may the dancing of the Spirit be around you,

each day, each night,

each night, each day. **Amen.** *(adapted, Kate McIlhaggaghs, from Rex Hunt’s Liturgies)*

God’s peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The sign of peace is exchanged.*

**Voice A:** I will wait for you to say sorry.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the doctor to call.

**Voice A:** I will wait for the weekend to arrive.

**Voice B:** I will wait for my baby’s first words.

**Voice A:** I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

**Voice B:** I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for hope.

**Voice A:** I cannot wait for hope, because I want to live with hope—  
today and every day.

**Voice B:** I want to roll up my sleeves and get to work—living, serving,  
giving, and transforming with the hope of a better day.

**Voice A:** So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and as a  
prayer that we might stop waiting and start living, stop watching and  
start moving.

**Voice B:** May the light of this candle burn inside us this week—  
inspiring hope and action for God’s promised day. **Amen.**

SONG: SMS 73      We light a Candle

Words and Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
Arrangement: Norman Inglis

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff (measures 1-8) has the lyrics: 'We light a can - dle for hope, ----- our world is long - ing for hope, peace, joy, love, peace, joy, love,'. The second staff (measures 9-16) has the lyrics: 'We light a can - dle for hope, ----- our world is long - ing for hope, peace, joy, love, peace, joy, love,'. The third staff (measures 17-24) is labeled 'REFRAIN - after last candle for the day' and has the lyrics: 'Ho - ly one ----- shine ----- with the fire of our lives,'. The fourth staff (measures 25-32) has the lyrics: 'Oh we light a can - dle for hope, ----- our world is long - ing for hope, peace, joy, love, peace, joy, love,'. There are repeat signs at the end of the first and second staves.

## PRAYERS OF WHO WE ARE

Gracious God,

You paint a picture of a better world—

A world of peace and joy, of equality and grace.

**But we too often turn our heads and close our eyes,  
afraid that you might want us to help.**

You ask us to be brave, and we are complacent.

**You ask us to speak out, but instead we stay quiet.**

You ask us to listen, and we assume we are the experts.

**You lead with love, and we wait on the sidelines.**

We acknowledge that we are too often ten steps behind you.

**We acknowledge the many ways we are 'works in progress'.**

Fill our hearts with a hope that won't let go.

**Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

A READING FROM OUR PROPHETIC TRADITION: Isaiah 2: 1-5

<sup>2</sup>1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

A READING FROM OUR GOSPEL TRADITION: Matthew 24: 36-44

<sup>36</sup> 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

<sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

<sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

<sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

<sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

<sup>42</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

<sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

WITNESS

VIDEO: "Fiver for a farmer"

MAKING OUR RESPONSE [writing on ribbons]

SONG: SMS 26 From a still small voice  
*Our offering is received while we sing this song*

Words and Music: Leigh Newton © 2017

♩ = 90

D A(add4) A Em G

1. From a still small voice in sil - ence, While the storms rage in our heart,  
2. From a glimpse of some-thing sim - ple, Small-est word or ti - ny seed,  
3. From the cross there blows a prom - ise; Ech - oes soft - ly through the hills.  
4. Je - sus come and tend these woun - ded, Come and sit here in our midst.

5 D A(add4) A G A(add4) A

Comes the hope of dreams and heal - ing; Salve for souls near torn a - part.  
Comes the hope of un - im - ag - ined Bless - ings for our dai - ly need.  
There is hint of life lived bet - ter, For us all who God in - dwells.  
Be the calm that stops our shak - ing, Come and hold this drift ing ship.

9 G D/F# G Bm

Jes - us, in our pain and sor - row, Whis - pers, "You are not a - lone."  
In this hope for lives transform - ing, Sis - ter, bro - ther, stran - ger, friend;  
Nei - ther asked for nor con - sen - ted, Gifts come rain - ing ev - 'ry day.  
Let your spark of hope grow in us; Use these tal - ents for your will.

13 D A(add4) A G A(add4) D A(sus4)

Wraps the arms of God a - round us; Ne - ver leaves us here or on our own.  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, plant your vis - ion For our life and liv - ing with - out end.  
Where they lead and what they nur - ture, Is a mys - try still and who can say?  
Through the griev - ing and the ach - ing, May we trust the one who loves us still.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for all we have received, O God:  
gifts of love and time, money and abilities.  
Into these bowls and into this place,  
we return a portion of these gifts.  
Bless those who receive them,  
just as we are blessed in the act of sharing them.  
**May it be so!**