

Centering Words:

The world says, "All is lost."

**God says, "All is loved."**

The darkness says, "The light is dying."

**The light says, "The fire is catching."**

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

**Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."**

As we enter the Advent season,

**we pray for holy hope of God.**

Come now, O Child of Mary.

**Come now, O Prince of Hope.**

Prayer for Stillness and Presence:

Reader 1: In the mystery of your presence, no words are needed.

In the depth of your silence, no sound is necessary.

In the face of your Word, no voice need respond.

'Be still,' you say, 'and know that I am God.'

Reader 2: So, we will be still and listen....

to the beating of our hearts, to the racing of our minds,

to the pondering of our souls,

knowing that your Spirit, your Holy Spirit,

is beating, moving, provoking

within us and amongst us.

*Silence is kept*

Reader 3: And we will be still and listen...

for the cry of the voiceless,

for the groaning of the weary,

for the pain of the wounded,

for the sigh of the victim,

for the laughter of children,

for the song of gladness,

knowing that your Spirit, your Holy Spirit, enables crying, groaning, sighing,

and also brings song and laughter.

*Silence is kept*

Reader 4: We will be still,

and if we do not take off our shoes,

we will yet remember that this is Holy Ground because you have promised to be  
where your people meet in Jesus' name.

And so we will wait;

patiently or impatiently

we will wait for Jesus. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** *Psalm 71:*

Reader 1: In you, O God, is my security;  
let me never be put to shame.

**By your saving power deliver me, hear me and keep me safe.**

Reader 2: Be a rock of refuge for me  
to which I can always come.

**Keep me safe from the power of the wicked, from the grasp of the cruel and unjust.**

Reader 3: In you, as long as I can remember,  
my hope and my trust have been placed.

**I have leaned on you since my birth, since you brought me out of the womb.**

Reader 4: Keep close when energy fails me  
and I spend my last years on earth.

**Let me wait in continual hope and praise you again and again.**

[Sharing of prayer requests with one another]

Closing Prayer:

God of the watching ones,

the waiting ones,

the prayerful and positive ones,

the angels in heaven,

the child in the womb,

**give us your benediction,**

**your good word for our souls that we may rest and rise**

**in the kindness of your company. Amen.**