

Advent Audio Retreat 2023 | Episode Three | “Waiting”

Prayer and reflection resource

As you still yourself to be with God, you might like to listen to one of the following recordings of the Taize chant ‘Wait for the Lord’.

- [Follow this link to listen to the first recording, via YouTube](#)
- [Follow this link to listen to the second recording, via YouTube](#)



[Spatial Concept 'Waiting' by Lucio Fontana](#)

The image above (described in the accompanying audio) is of a picture called ‘Spatial Concept, Waiting’ by Lucio Fontana.

What thoughts and feelings does it give rise to in you?

How does it speak to you of waiting?

How easy do you find waiting?

Notice your times of waiting this week (for deliveries, for the kettle to boil, for friends to arrive ...) How do you feel as you are waiting? Does your experience of waiting change when you know what you are waiting for, or have preconceived expectations?

Think back to a time in your life when God has surprised you. How did it happen? Have your expectations of God changed as a result?

Resources from Scripture

The following verses are all associated with waiting. Do they describe waiting or expectation?

Which one speaks to you most?

Psalm 40: 1-3

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

1 Kings 19: 11-13

11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Luke 2: 25 – 32

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss[a] your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

John 20: 11-16

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to [a]Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).