

SIX MOMENTS OF WAITING

AN ADVENT HYMN CYCLE FOR YEAR C

By Hope Hilton



INTRODUCTION

This Advent hymn cycle is a story of waiting, from **cosmic disruption** to **covenant intimacy**. Across six hymns, we move from the falling of stars, a hungry world, to the vows of love — accompanying the church to sing its way from upheaval to promise fulfilled. Inclusivity shapes both language and theology: creation waits, the poor cry out, Mary sings, and covenant love is honored. The goals of this project include community connection, scriptural instruction, and shared movement toward the Realm of God.

A Theological Preface

Advent is not a soft prelude to Christmas. It is a season of disruption, longing, and promise, where the people of God learn how to wait with both patience and urgency.

This hymn cycle traces six dimensions of that waiting:

Cosmic Waiting — the stars fall, the nations tremble, yet redemption draws near.

Creational Waiting — the earth groans, the oppressed cry out, yearning for justice and healing.

Prophetic Waiting — a child is promised into the chaos, hope declared before it is seen.

Repentant Waiting — a voice in the wilderness calls for change, leveling pride and preparing the way.

Joyful Waiting — Mary sings ahead of fulfillment, proclaiming God's great reversal with courage.

Covenant Waiting — Joseph stays, loves, and believes, embodying faith as steady fidelity.

Together, these six moments resist reducing Advent to sentiment or countdown. They invite the church into the fullness of waiting: communal and personal, disruptive and tender, cosmic and covenantal. To sing these hymns is to join creation, prophets, the poor, Mary, and Joseph in longing for the world God is bringing.

May we wait and create together.

Amen.

THE SIX MOMENTS

Cosmos- “Lift Up Your Heads, Redemption is Near”

The Sun will fade, the Stars will all fall...

For Advent 1, From Luke 21:25–36

Author/Composer: Hope Hilton

Creation- “All Earth is Waiting”

All Earth is waiting to see the promised one...

For Advent 1-2, From Romans 8, Isaiah 35, Luke 4

Author/Composer Alberto Taulé. Adapted by H.H.

Prophecy - “Unto Us”

Unto us, a child will be given. Unto us, a future will be shown...

For Advent 2, From Isaiah 9

Author/Composer H.H.

Change - “A Voice Calls Out”

A voice calls out, calls out of the wilderness: “prepare the way of our God...”

For Advent 2–3, From Luke 3:1–18

Author: H.H. Composers: Derek Tam & H.H.

Joy- “O my Soul Will Magnify my God”

O my soul will magnify my God! and my Spirit rejoices in my savior....

For Advent 4 — From Luke 1:46–55

Author/Composer H.H.

Covenant - “I’m Sworn to Thee”

I’m sworn to thee, my love to be, I’ll always stay by your side.

For Advent 4 — From Matthew 1:18–25

Author/Composer H.H.

USAGE NOTES

As a matter of liturgical planning, these hymns give you greater flexibility to hold off on Christmas carols until later in the season, so that when the carols finally arrive, they shine with renewed joy and freshness.

Some ways to engage with the music and text as a congregation:

- Teach one verse as call-and-response before worship.
- Pair with familiar tunes if needed (metrical psalm approach).
- Use with ensembles, choirs, or soloists to ease congregational learning.

PERMISSIONS & REQUESTS

This hymnal is free for worship use: copy, sing, adapt, and share. If monetized, credit the compiler and share proceeds fairly. As a personal request, please share recordings — they are a joy to hear. This cycle was born out of both theology and lived love. Special thanks to my wife, whose faith and laughter ground this project in covenant joy.

DEMOS & ARRANGEMENTS

Demo recording tracks are available. Please visit

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnQQWnVfAg01DdQVO0aSHiOKK_a51LQP&si=X1tqKoKVB76efO6m

The Musescore files provide extended functionality, including playback, transposition, and more. For full access, including additional arrangements and capo versions, please visit

<https://musescore.com/user/40592616/sets/12705760>

1. LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, REDEMPTION IS NEAR

C F C Am

The sun will fade the stars will all fall
 Hun - gry we wait here out - side the gate.
 The ax is laid down where roots run deep,
 So let us stand with voic - es so strong

5 C F C Am

o - ceans will roar and na - tions will call
 our cries of hun - ger do not a - bate,
 win - now - ing ga - thers what God will keep
 to build a world where we all be - long

9 C F C Am

yet Christ is near and our hope is clear
 but God is near and God's love is clear
 the fire re - fines and the grain is here
 for Christ is near, and God's reign is here.

13 C F C F

Lift up your heads, re - dem - ption is near
 Lift up your heads, re - dem - ption is near.
 Lift up your heads, re - dem - ption is near.
 Lift up your heads, re - dem - ption is near.

Lift Up Your Heads, Redemption is Near — Lyrics

The sun will fade the stars will all fall
oceans will roar and nations will call
yet Christ is near, and our hope is clear

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, REDEMPTION IS NEAR

Hungry we wait here outside the gate.
Our cries of hunger do not abate.
but God is near, and God's love is clear.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, REDEMPTION IS NEAR.

the ax is laid down where roots run deep
winnowing gathers what God will keep
the fire refines and the grain is here

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, REDEMPTION IS NEAR

so let us stand with voices so strong.
to build a world where we all belong
for Christ is near, and God's reign is here,

LIFT UP YOUR HANDS, REDEMPTION IS NEAR

2. ALL EARTH IS WAITING

Adagio

E **E/G#** **F#m7** **B**

(1. Instrumental intro)
 2. All earth is wait - ing to see the pro - mised one,
 3. Thus, says the pro - phet to those ac - ross the land,
 4. Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be made plain;

E **E/G#** **A** **B**

(1. Instrumental)
 2. and o - pen fur - rows, the sow - ing of our God!
 3. "A vir - gin mo - ther, will bear E - man - u - el!"
 4. O - pen new pas - sage - ways for the Sov - ereign One!

C#m7 **G#m** **A** **E**

(1. Instrumental)
 2. All the world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true li - ber - ty,
 3. For his name is God with us, our sib - ling to be,
 4. He is now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see,

C#m7 **G#m** **F#m7** **B** *repeat x3*

(1. Instrumental)
 2. it cries out for jus - tice and sear - ches for the truth.
 3. with him, hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.
 4. and o - pen the door - ways as wide as wide can be.

E **E/G#** **F#m7** **B**

In low - ly sta - ble the Prom - ised One ap - peared,

E **E/G#** **A** **B**

yet, feel his pre - sence through - out the earth to - day,

C#m7 **G#m** **A** **E** **C#m7** **G#m** **F#m7** **B** **E**

for he lives in all peo - ple and is with us now; a - gain with his com - ing he brings us lib - er - ty.

Text: Alberto Taulé, 1972. English trans. Gertrude Suppe, George Lockwood, Raquel Gutiérrez-Achón. Adapted by Hope Hilton. Music: Alberto Taulé. Arrangement: public domain.

All Earth is Waiting — Lyrics

All earth is waiting to see the promised one, and the open furrows, the sowing of our God!

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty,

it cries out for justice, and searches for the truth.

Thus, says the prophet, to those across the land, “a virgin mother, will bear Emanuel!”

For his name is God with us, our sibling to be.

With him, hope will blossom, once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain.

Open new passageways for the Sovereign One!

He is now coming closer, so come all and see,

and open the doorways, as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable, the Promised One appeared.

Yet, feel his presence, throughout the earth today,

for he lives in all people, and is with us now,

again with his coming, he brings us liberty.

Text: Alberto Taulé, 1972. English trans. Gertrude Suppe, George Lockwood, Raquel Gutiérrez-Achón. Adapted by Hope Hilton. Music: Alberto Taulé. Arrangement: public domain.

3. UNTO US (A CHILD WILL BE GIVEN)

1. Un-to us, a child will be given. Un-to us, a future will be shown.

And the world shall be upon his shoulders. Un-to us, Christ Jesus will be known. 2. He will 3. So a

be called won - der - ful dear coun - selor.
sign will be sent forth to lead us.

2. He will be, the ev - er - las - ting God.
3. God, con - ceived and born to be here now.

2. He will be the Prince of Peace for - ev - er.
3. He shall be called God who lives a - mong us.

2. He will bring us all e - ter - nal love,
3. He shall be called God Im - man - u - el,

and so we wait for Je - sus; we a - wait you Je - sus.

2nd time Fine

Unto Us (A Child Will be Given) — Lyrics

Unto us, a child will be given; unto us, a future will be shown,
and the world shall be upon his shoulders.

Unto us, Christ Jesus will be known.

He will be called wonderful dear counselor; he will be the everlasting God;
he will be the Prince of Peace forever; he will bring us all eternal love.

AND SO WE WAIT FOR JESUS, WE AWAIT YOU, JESUS

So a sign will be sent forth to lead us: God, conceived and born to be here now.
He shall be called God who lives among us; he shall be called God Immanuel.

AND SO WE WAIT FOR JESUS, WE AWAIT YOU, JESUS

Unto us, a child will be given; unto us, a future will be shown,
and the world shall be upon his shoulders.

Unto us, Christ Jesus will be known.

4. A VOICE CALLS OUT (OF THE WILDERNESS)

Allegretto *Dm Am F C G F C G C*

10 *C Am Dm F/G G*

1. A voice calls out, calls out of the wil - der - ness:
 2. The val - leys shall the val - leys shall be filled in
 3. The glor - y of the glor - y of God will show,

15 *C Am Dm Gsus G*

1. Pre - pare the way, the way of our God.
 2. The moun - tains and the hills be - come low.
 3. all peo - ple will will all come to see.

20 *C Am Dm F/G G*

1. Make clear the paths O read - y the way to - day
 2. The rugg - ed roads will all be made plain to - day
 3. Sal - va - tion dawns, for heal - ing is God's de - cree,

25 *Dm Am F C G*

For Je - sus is com - ing, Je - sus is com - ing,

30 *F C G C*

Christ will be born, a - men!

A Voice Calls Out (of the Wilderness) — Lyrics

A voice calls out, calls out of the wilderness:

“Prepare the way, the way of our God!”

Make clear the paths, O ready the way for him!

FOR JESUS IS COMING, JESUS IS COMING, CHRIST IS ALIVE, AMEN!

The valleys shall, the valleys shall be filled in.

The mountains and the hills become low.

The rugged roads will all be made plain for him.

FOR JESUS IS COMING, JESUS IS COMING, CHRIST IS ALIVE, AMEN!

The glory of, the glory of God will show,

all people will, will all come to see.

Salvation dawns; salvation is God's decree!

FOR JESUS IS COMING, JESUS IS COMING, CHRIST IS ALIVE, AMEN!

5. O MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY MY GOD

Andantino

Chords: C, D, Em, Em7, C, D, G

6 **%**

Chords: G, C, G, D, G, C, Am, Am7

1. O my soul will mag-ni - fy my God! and my Spi - rit re - joi - ces in my sav - ior.

11 **Fine**

Chords: C, D, Em, Em7, C, D, G

1. He has looked with fa - vor on this low - ly one, he has looked with fav - or on his ser - vant.

16

Chords: G, C, G, D, G, C, Am, Am7

2. Now all souls will know that I am blessed! Now let all gen - er - a - tions see God's glo - ry,
 3. O God's mer - cy is for those who fear, he pro - tects those of all the gen - er - a - tions,
 4. He has filled the hun - gry with good things, he has sent off the wealth - y, emp - ty hand - ed.

21

Chords: C, D, Em, Em7, C, D, G

2. For the migh - ty one has done great things for me, let all peo - ple know that God is Ho - ly.
 3. He has shown great pow - er with his migh - ty hand, he has sca - ttered all the proud and haugh - ty.
 4. He has helped his ser - vants to let mer - cy flow, he has pro - mised love to us for - ev - er.

26 **3rd time to % al Fine**

Chords: Am7, D7, G, Gsus6, Am7, D7, Gsus4, G

O my soul will mag - ni - fy God! My soul will mag - ni - fy God!

O My Soul Will Magnify My God — Lyrics

O my soul will magnify my God! and my Spirit rejoices in my savior.

He has looked with favor on this lowly one. He has looked with favor on his servant.

O, MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY GOD! O, MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY GOD!

Now all souls will know that I am blessed! Now let all generations see God's glory.

For the mighty one has done great things for me, let all people know that God is Holy

O, MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY GOD! O, MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY GOD!

O God's mercy is for those who fear, he protects those of all the generations,

he has shown great power with his mighty hand, he has scattered all the proud and haughty.

O, MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY GOD! O, MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY GOD!

He has filled the hungry with good things, he has sent off the wealthy, empty handed.

He has helped his servants to let mercy flow, he has promised love to us forever.

O, MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY GOD! O, MY SOUL WILL MAGNIFY GOD!

6. I'M SWORN TO THEE

Hope Hilton

♩. = 60

10

I'm sworn to thee, my love to be, I'll al - ways stay by your side.
 Con - sumed with awe, I dreamed and saw, an an - gel said un - to me,
 The an - gel spoke, "the pro - phets wrote that God would give us a sign:
 Don't be a - fraid, our child will save, he'll show that God is with us.

15

1. and come what may I'll hold the faith we'll keep our pro mise a - live.
 2. "Don't fall to fear, the Spi - rit's near, re - quir - ing cour - age from thee."
 3. from vir - gin birth, God saves the Earth, and shall be E - man - u - el."
 4. Lord, be our guide, stay by our side. We pro - mise our love to you.

20

1. E - man - u - el, E - man - u - el.
 2. E - man - u - el, E - man - u - el.
 3. E - man - u - el, E - man - u - el.
 4. E - man - u - el, E - man - u - el.

25

1. and come what may I'll hold the faith we'll keep our pro mise a - live.
 2. "Don't fall to fear, the Spi - rit's near, re - quir - ing cour - age from thee."
 3. from vir - gin birth, God saves the Earth, and shall be E - man - u - el."
 4. Lord, be our guide, stay by our side. We pro - mise our love to you.

I'm Sworn to Thee (my Bride to be) — Lyrics

I'm sworn to thee, my love to be, I'll always stay by your side.

And come what may, I'll hold the faith, we'll keep our promise alive.

EMANUEL, EMANUEL,

And come what may, I'll hold the faith, we'll keep our promise alive.

Consumed with awe, I dreamed and saw, an angel said unto me:

"Don't fall to fear the Spirit's near, requiring courage from thee."

EMANUEL, EMANUEL,

"Don't fall to fear the Spirit's near, requiring courage from thee."

The angel spoke, the prophets wrote, that God would give us a sign:

'from virgin birth God saves the Earth and shall be Emanuel.'

EMANUEL, EMANUEL,

'from virgin birth God saves the Earth and shall be Emanuel.'

Don't be afraid, our child will save, he'll show that God is with us.

Lord, be our guide, stay by our side. We promise our love to you.

EMANUEL, EMANUEL,

Lord, be our guide, stay by our side. We promise our love to you.

Emmanuel: "God with us"

CLOSING WORD

Advent can be stressful for being so beautiful. May these hymns steady the waiting, sharpen the hope, and make room for joy when Christmas dawns.

-Hope