

5429a

Ministers:
Rev. Art Griffin
Rev. M.J.V. Shaver

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
320 EAST HASTINGS STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6A 1P4

Organist
Harry Stothers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1978

10.30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP

Organ Prelude
Call to Worship
Hymn No. 389 (132) "Come, Thou long-expected Jesus"
Invocation
Lighting 4th Advent Candle
Psalm No. 119: 81-88 (Psalms for Modern Man)
Hymn No. 439 (686) "Lord from the depths
to Thee I cried" (Tune Belmont No. 72)
Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 61: 1-11
II Peter 3: 8-10
Luke 2: 1-20
Hymn No. 416 (53) "Silent Night"
Prayer
Hymn No. 408 (64) "Angels from the realms of
glory" (Tune: Regent Square
Sermon WHAT'S THE GOOD OF WAITING?
Rev. Jack Shaver
Offering
Announcements
Hymn No. 401 (55) "Joy to the World"
Benediction
Organ Postlude

7.00 P.M.

A Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service
under the direction of Linda Ervin
(see separate sheet)

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We welcome everyone to our services on this
very special day in the Church Year. There will
be a period of fellowship and refreshment follo-
wing both services, and you are all invited to
attend.

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The broadcast tonight at 8.00 p.m.
on CKWX is from St. Andrews-Wesley United
Church.

1 Bread ***

2 for 7 Communion

3 Transfer / Comments
(4) Clerk

Take off 6

Low Sunday
5 Epiphany
A Holy & Good
Friday
Pass
Good

(5429c)
George

4th Candle

1978

Now is The Time of lighting The 4th
Advent Candle.

The advent season is a time of preparation
and anticipation.

The advent season has to do with waiting.

Candles have to do with waiting. Who is
not moved by the symbol of a Candle in
a window - waiting the return of a beloved.

We light The 4th advent Candle in
celebration of all the waiting of The EARTH.

Longed ones to return.

Promised Land to become ours own.

Peace, liberation.

Waiting of the whole of creation, waiting for
The human family to say abba Father together.

Power & Glory of The waiting in Heaven.

Waiting Father - waiting human responses

Waiting Son - standing at the Door knock

Waiting S. - waiting for to be admitted

Waiting Spirit - until The last of us
says "Come."

(5429d)

Sunday Dec 24 10:30 AM 1978
FIRST UNITED CHURCH

What's the good of Waiting?

I want to talk about The Good + Bad
of Waiting, in the expectation that it will
turn up some God-Talk.

- consider together contradictions about
human waiting - turns up some stuff →

Memories

recognitions

"just like me" thoughts

through which we will experience

God at work in us.

Deep connection between

waiting for the God who comes

and recognizing the God who has come.

Waiting can be an incredible imposition.

We at First Church especially conscious of this

- we see how prevalent it is

how degrading -

depressing it is.

→ And we see ourselves doing it to other
ourselves -

Especially through this season leading up to
Christmas.

waiting can be unbearable burden - never lets up
unspeakable thing to put on another.

Unbearable thing - so through life never necessary
any of its promise!

AT THE SAME TIME:

• Life ~~less~~ would without waiting!

Mysteries here : - Have - or didn't have
no anticipation
no waiting → no grief.
goes along → Not caring

Powerful Image YUNG - Day Break over Africa
animals move → what creation waiting
for the dawn of consciousness

Home - awaiting the one who is to make it
home

Any Potential - awaiting its fulfillment
personal or thing

Candle in the Window.

What would a lovers meeting be
without its time of awaiting?

ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEAUTIFUL STATES
STAND BEFORE A THING OR PERSONS
PROMISE

Even as one of the world's BITTEREST EXPERIENCE

- BROKEN PROMISES

- UNFULFILLED PROMISE

This Christmas Season - Dread
Depression
Close to the Abyss

God who Promises — invention?
 invented by a selfish stubborn People?
 Doesn't exist,
 Hasn't made any
 Doesn't keep any

Waiting Vain? has it been so in
 the past?

Shane — some states of waiting —
 sustain me instead of take it out
 of me. —

1. Waiting to understand what I have experienced
 undergo (let happen instead of repress)
 thrown — Dark country
 Strange land — For a reason

run from loving
 rejected a Gift.
 cheap cure found waiting
 called to a clearer apprehension of reality.

2. Waiting out of love —
 vision of my mother's death —
 who hears him when he will so soon
 be going of his own accord.
 → intervention — stated it — fact is —
 change to be significant s/he must see it
 for herself.

(54295)

4

Whole person

in total integrity - so yes.

Moved by God - not me

- not less than God

Waiting that sustains me - rather than takes it out of me.

Love

Love of the world,

} stand before Beloved
" " " " would
deeply caring about the fulfillment
of its promise. →

3. I don't always respond to the Biblical writers rationalization of why God seems slow about his promises. —

- He is the potter - you are the clay
- I'll have nerve on whom I'll have nerve —
- 1000 years are same as a day.

But this word in II Peter does reach me -

- also in the Pauline letter to the Romans

3rd kind of waiting - sustains me rather than takes it out of me.

God is forbearing with you

not wishing that any should perish
but that all should reach repentance

Waiting and waiting would seem to be the most frustrating, patience demanding, Depression-causing state - when promises aren't fulfilled

What can be good about it
How can you feel good about not receiving
the promises?

Do you know the timing on one of Paul's
most famous acts of Praise →
The Church's Liturgy is always quoting
Doxologies & Benedictions from his
writings:

This famous one:

O the depth — the riches and wisdom
and knowledge of God. How unsearchably
are his judgments and how inscrutable his
ways. For who has known the mind of
the Lord or who has been his counselor
or who has given a gift to him that he
might be repaid. For from him, and
through him and to him are all things
to him be glory for Ever. Amen.

Praise ~~celebrates~~ celebrates

NOT Having The Full promise,
For God has consigned all men to
disobedience That he might have mercy
upon all.