As we prepare for Advent, it is a time of expectation, watching and waiting for the Saviour of the world. We give God thanks for the peace, love and holy presence among us – Watch, Wait and Worship.

MP = *Mission Praise* R&S = *Rejoice and Sing*

**Hymns for the Season**

1. Come on and celebrate (MP 83) –this song offers the opportunity to celebrate the story with the Shepherds and the Magi as we welcome God on earth.
2. Advent Candle Song – this can be sung all the way through or a verse each time you gather.
3. Like a candle flame (MP 420). Advent is a season of light … which has come for all people. Prayer – the light of the world (John 1: 1-14). What a wonderful gift when the word becomes flesh and dwells among us.
4. The voice of God goes out (R&S 131). This can be used with the theme ‘Responding to the Voice of God’. Prayer – God help us to listen to what your voice is saying to the world. Forgive us as we close our hearts, our ears and our minds to your words. *Break into our world, so that we may feel your presence this season … to the glory of your name.*
5. Come, thou long expected Jesus (MP 102) and (R&S 138). This is built around the theme of while we are waiting, do we also use the time to prepare? Isaiah 9:6 – ‘child is born and the government will be on his shoulders’ …. Do we tell ourselves that things will get better … ‘Better must come one day …’ *Let us keep on hoping and keep on praying.*
6. Make way, Make way (R&S 141 and MP 457) John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus. Prayer – we offer ourselves as *messengers of peace and goodwill in the world.*
7. Child in a manger, infant of Mary (MP 71). Welcoming the stranger. The URC has information on its website about conversations with the stranger. Please visit the site for details. <http://www.urc.org.uk/at-home-mission>
8. Extraordinary Times! You’ll find this on a PDG attached to this page. This hymn was written to respond to the movement in the Church year from “ordinary time” to advent, which ight also be seen as a movement to “extraordinary time”!
9. Wait for the Lord (Taize). A quiet chant to help us settle ourselves in this waiting time.
10. Glory! You’ll also find this on a PDF attached to this page. Although this is more of a Christmas hymn it was written for a nativity service, which often take place in advent.

With great expectation, we watch and wait for our Saviour. The prophets proclaim a festival when God’s people gather together, work in unity and do his will. Let us wait on the Lord and worship God in the beauty of holiness*. Amen*