**Approach**

1. Holy God,

We wait for you this advent time,

and thank you for your promise.

Your promise that we are not abandoned;

your promise that joy is in our world!

Holy God, we wait for you this advent,

and thank you for the many signs

we find of you with us:

In those we love, and share our lives with;

in those who care for us;

in the world around us each day;

in the unexpected;

in the familiar.

Holy God, we wait for you this advent time.

We praise you for all that you are:

Source of life, Guide for our living, Goal of all life.

Joy to the world, for you are here!

Alleluia, praise God : our hope is secure.

1. Holy God,

we wait for you this advent time,

and thank you for your promise.

Your promise that we are not abandoned;

your promise that your messengers

are in our world!

Holy God, we wait for you this advent time

and thank you for the many ways

your message reaches us:

In friend and stranger;

in the familiar and unexpected;

in word and silence;

in sight and sound.

Holy God, we wait for you this advent time.

We praise you for all that you are:

Source of life, Guide for our living, Goal of all life.

How lovely in our lives

are those who bring your good news.

Alleluia, praise God: our hope is secure.

1. Holy God,

We wait for you this advent time,

and thank you for your promise.

Your promise that we are not abandoned;

your promise that you make your way

known in our world!

Holy God, we wait for you this advent time

and thank you for the many journeys

your way takes:

Justice for the oppressed;

conversations in places of conflict;

seeds growing in land long abandoned.

Holy God, we wait for you this advent time.

We praise you for all that you are:

Source of life, Guide for our living,

Goal of all life.

Make way, make way, for Christ the King

Let us welcome him into our lives.

Alleluia, praise God: our hope is secure.

1. Holy God,

We wait for you this advent time,

And thank you for your promise.

Your promise that we are not abandoned;

your promise that speaks to our imagination!

Holy God, we wait for you this advent

and thank you for the many promises

you place before us:

open us to your signs;

let us embrace your joy;

grant us courage to receive your hope.

Holy God, we wait for you this advent time.

We praise you for all that you are:

Source of life, Guide for our living, Goal of all life.

O Come O Come Emmanuel:

save us from our lack of expectation.

Alleluia, praise God: our hope is secure.

**An Advent confession**

Holy God, we wait for you at this advent time.

Even though we know your truth:

you are already with us!

Forgive us the times we do not see you

- in the face of friend and stranger

- in the need of the one we ignore

- in the chaos of change in our lives

- in the discomfort of new ways

Forgive us and open us to the glory of your ways.

Forgive us and show us that we can be faithful.

Forgive us and let us lap up your mercy.

These words are true,

they are true every time we hear them.

Christ Jesus is with us:

with endless patience revealing God’s love.

with endless joy sharing God’s grace

with endless mercy giving us hope.

We are forgiven,

Let us live lives faithful to the God who calls us.

**Concern and hope**

1. Holy God,

We wait for you this advent,

For we know all too well how much we need you.

In the places where swords and spears rule,

Where training for war is a way of life:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

In the places where children hurt

and adults have lost hope

where disease is untreated

and knowledge left to one side:

Your kingdom come, your will be done

In the place we know so well,

in the streets where we live,

in the shops we visit,

in the faces we know and love:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Holy God, we wait for you this advent,

For we know all too well how much we need you.

May we be faithful to you.

1. Holy God,

We wait for you this advent time,

For we know all too well how much we need you.

In the places where difference brings conflict

where strangers lead others

to talk and act violently.

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

In the places where faith is hard to find,

where hope has almost gone.

where political systems dictate

how people should live and think:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

In the place we know so well,

in the streets where we live,

in the shops we visit,

in the faces we know and love:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Holy God, we wait for you this advent,

For we know all too well how much we need you.

May we be faithful to you.

1. Holy God

We wait for you this advent time,

For we know all too well how much we need you.

In a world where judgement of others

creates hate and conflict.

In a world where the rules of the few

oppress the lives of the many:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

In a world which struggles to sustain

the lives we think we deserve.

In a world where political leaders

set themselves up as saviours:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

In the place we know so well.

in the streets where we live,

in the shops we visit,

in th faces we know and love:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Holy God, we wait for you this advent,

For we know all too well how much we need you.

May we be faithful to you.

1. Holy God

We wait for you this advent time,

For we know all too well how much we need you.

As Christmas get closer, and some fear its coming.

Where hope seems farther away than ever

And some do nothing to bring it closer.

When joy is just a dream, and peace is never known:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

In the place we know so well,

in the streets where we live,

in the shops we visit,

in the faces we know and love:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Holy God, we wait for you this advent,

For we know all too well how much we need you.

May we be faithful to you.