

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend we begin the season of Advent and inaugurate a new liturgical year, a new Year of Grace in which will unfold, once again, the saving mystery of Jesus, beginning with his birth. In Advent we wait for the celebration of Christmas and we wait for the Lord to come again at the end of our lives and at the end of all time. Meanwhile, we all do all kinds of waiting and Advent is a time to ask God's blessing on all the waiting we do. May this prayer from Jan Richardson bless all the ways you wait this Advent.

Peace, Fr. Fleming

Blessing for Waiting

Who wait
for the night
to end
- bless them.

Who wait
for the night
to begin
- bless them.

Who wait
in the hospital room
who wait
in the cell
who wait
in prayer
- bless them.

Who wait
for news
who wait
for the phone call
who wait
for a word
who wait
for a job
a house
a child
- bless them.

Who wait
for one who
will come home
who wait
for one who
will not come home
- bless them.

Who wait with fear
who wait with joy
who wait with peace
who wait with rage
who wait for the end
who wait for the
beginning
who wait alone
who wait together
- bless them.

Who wait
without knowing
what they wait for
or why
- bless them.

Who wait
when they
should not wait
who wait
when they should be
in motion
who wait
when they need
to rise
who wait
when they need
to set out
- bless them.

Who wait
for the end
of waiting
who wait
for the fullness
of time
who wait
emptied and
open and
ready
who wait
for you
- o bless them!

- Jan Richardson
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