



86430

# Wreath Song (Like Winter Waiting)

John Foley, SJ

Cantor, SATB  
Piano, Guitar

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## Performance Notes

*Wreath Song* represents a song service for parishes and members of the domestic church that light the weekly candles during Advent, and can be used to support the church ritual as prescribed in the Book of Blessings (# 1509–1540).

There are two principal ways to symbolize the “waiting” aspect of *Wreath Song*:

1. The one verse method: use each verse once on its corresponding Sunday of Advent. The verses are naturally progressive, leading to the birth.
2. The continuous version method: play verse one on the First Sunday. On the Second Sunday, begin with verse one and continue to verse two. The candle bearer(s) would bring in candle one during verse one and candle two during verse two. Then do three verses on the Third Sunday, and four on the Fourth. (To provide variety, verse three can be made shorter by using the alternative ending bridge to verse three in this octavo).

A parish might choose to employ just two verses for the third and fourth Sundays. That is, use verse one for the First Sunday, verses one and two for the Second, verses two and three for the Third, and verses three and four for the fourth. The continuous version has the advantage of lengthening the experience of waiting as the weeks continue.

*The Wreath Song Service:*

- The church is semi-dark as people enter for the Sunday Liturgy. An atmosphere of quiet calm is produced by the musical introduction on piano, which is slightly longer than on ordinary Sundays in order to achieve this effect.
- There would be no processional of priests and ministers of the liturgy. The presiding minister and acolytes (if they are used) enter quietly from the sanctuary and are seated by the time *Wreath Song* begins.
- *Wreath Song* verses are meant to be sung by a cantor (choir parts are also included). Since the text of *Wreath Song* is filled with images that appeal to the imagination, the assembly becomes absorbed in the poetry and music while waiting for the Refrain. Waiting is, of course, the deepest meaning of Advent. *Because of the need for lingering on these images and even taking them home for further pondering, it is highly recommended that the words for each week be printed and given to the people before the Sunday Liturgy (see notice for reprint permission below the Assembly Edition).*
- A candle bearer enters from the back of the church during the verse and processes toward the altar. The actual time when the bearer would begin depends on the length of the aisle. The bearer reaches the sanctuary before the verse finishes. As the verse ends, he or she turns to the assembly with the candle raised high so that all can see it and holds it there during the short Refrain. During the music after the refrain, the bearer turns and places the candle in the Advent wreath. The presiding minister then stands and begins the liturgy.
- Assemblies learn the refrain quickly and seem to love singing it. “Christ is the way, Christ is the light, Christ is the word of life. Come, Lord Jesus, shine!”
- The service can be extended into Christmas Eve or Christmas as well. For example, the hymn *Heart of the World*, ed. 12011 (also from *Like Winter Waiting*, ed. 11157) is a new Christmas song whose melody is interwoven with *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, and which ends with the triumphant refrain from *Wreath Song*. With all four candles lit, the Christmas candle may be brought forward during the refrain. This musical and visual transition helps Advent to culminate in Christmas, instead of the two seasons being perceived as separate realities.

*Variations:*

The *Wreath Song* service is quite adaptable, as it must be for local circumstances. The candle has great effect if it is already lit when it is carried down the center aisle. But it also could be carried unlit, since motion could possibly extinguish it. If unlit during the procession, the candle would be ceremoniously lit in the sanctuary. Another possibility is to use a glass cover or globe placed over the candle to protect the flame on its way to the wreath. In any case, the lit candle should be displayed to the assembly when the refrain begins.

—John Foley, S.J.

# Wreath Song

## (Like Winter Waiting)

A Song Ceremony for Lighting the Advent Wreath  
dedicated to St. Cecilia Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

John Foley, S. J.

INTRO Gently (♩ = ca. 112)

G7/C C G7/C C F/A

**A**  
\*VERSES

*rit.* Cantor *mp* *a tempo*

1. Like win - ter wait - ing for  
2. Like des - ert seek - ing for  
3. (\*\*Instrumental)  
4. The win - ter snow-falls un -

C/G Am Bb Bb F Bbmaj7

1. spring, \_\_\_\_\_ like dark-ness a - wait - ing a sign of ear - ly  
2. rain, \_\_\_\_\_ like still - ness re - call - ing the sounds of life un -  
3. (Instrumental continues)  
4. fold, \_\_\_\_\_ and wild geese a - call - ing turn yearn-ing in - to

Gm C F Eb Dm

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\*There are two performance alternatives: 1) sing each verse only on its corresponding Sunday; or  
2) use the continuous version as described in the Performance Notes.

\*\*If using one verse per week, Piano (with or without C Instrument) can play from **A** to **C**.

*mf*

1. light, \_\_\_\_\_ and like sor - row, in its si - lence,  
 2. heard, \_\_\_\_\_ and like child - hood, seek - ing wis - dom,  
 3. (Instrumental continues)  
 4. flights, \_\_\_\_\_ and the branch - es shed their gar - ments,

Gsus4 G Bb Dm F

*f*

1. seek - ing voice to sing, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. e - ven in its pains: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. (Instrumental continues)  
 4. warm with - in the cold: \_\_\_\_\_

Am Bb Em Asus4

**B**

Soprano *mp*

Alto

1. \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ we, watch - ful and free,  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ we, watch - ful and free,  
 3. (Instrumental continues)  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ we, watch - ful and free,

Tenor

Bass

A Dm A/E Dm/F Bb C Dsus4 Dm

*rit.*

1. peace - ful in your night.  
 2. wait - ing for your word.  
 3. (Instrumental continues)  
 4. peace - ful in your night.

*rit.*

F C Gm7 A Cadd9 G

**C** Cantor or Choir

*mf a tempo*

1. Peace - ful in your night, re - mem - ber - ing kind - ness, the  
 2. Wait - ing for your word, the free - dom that feeds us, the  
 3. Long - er light de - lays; the can - dles be - fore us say  
 4. Peace - ful in your night, our sight still in blind - ness, yet

4. Peace - ful night, our sight in blind - ness yet

*mf a tempo*

D Am G D

*mf a tempo*

Melody

Harmony

- 1. love that re - minds us: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. love that re - ceives us: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Christ will re - store us: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. love still re - minds us: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_

4. love still re - minds us: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Christ is our  
 Christ is your  
 Christ is the  
 Christ is our

*poco rit.*

1. light, Christ is our light.  
 2. word, Christ is your word.  
 3. way, Christ is the way.  
 4. light, Christ is our light.

*poco rit.*

Em Gsus4 G

*poco rit.*

**D**

REFRAIN: All (unison)

*f a tempo*

Christ is the way, Christ is the light,

C Fadd9/C Cmaj9 C

*f a tempo*

Christ is the word of life. Come, Lord

Am Dm Em F Em

Je - sus, shine!

Dm7 G G7/C C G7/C

C F/A C/G Am

Ending for Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4

Bb

*mf* *rit.*

F

*molto rit.* *8va* *Fine*

Alternative endings for continuous version(s) of Wreath Song

Bridge to Verse 2 or 4

Bb D.S. (b)

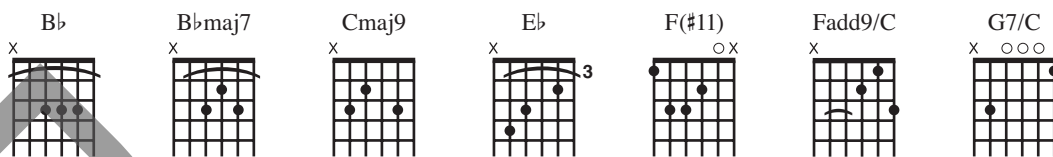
Bridge to Verse 3

Bb A7sus4 A7 to Verse 3 C

*rit.* *rit.*



# Chord Charts



# Wreath Song

(Like Winter Waiting)

A Song Ceremony for Lighting the Advent Wreath  
dedicated to St. Cecilia Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

(Guitar/Vocal)

John Foley, S. J.

### INTRO Gently (♩ = ca. 112)

*mp* G7/C C G7/C C F/A

(Piano or C Instrument)

### A \*VERSES

C/G Am Bb *rit.* Bb *Cantor mp* F *a tempo* Bbmaj7

1. Like \_\_\_ win - ter \_\_\_ wait - ing for
2. Like \_\_\_ des - ert \_\_\_ seek - ing for
3. (\*\*Instrumental)
4. The \_\_\_ win - ter \_\_\_ snow-falls un -

Gm C F Eb Dm

1. spring, \_\_\_ like \_\_\_ dark-ness a - wait - ing a sign of ear - ly
2. rain, \_\_\_ like \_\_\_ still-ness re - call - ing the sounds of life un -
3. (Instrumental continues)
4. fold, \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ wild geese a - call - ing turn yearn-ing in - to

Gsus4 G Bb *mf* Dm F

1. light, \_\_\_ and like sor - row, in its si - lence,
2. heard, \_\_\_ and like child - hood, seek - ing wis - dom,
3. (Instrumental continues)
4. flights, \_\_\_ and the branch - es shed their gar - ments,

Am *f* Bb Em Asus4 A B Dm A/E Dm/F *mp*

1. seek - ing voice to sing, \_\_\_ so \_\_\_ are \_\_\_ we,
2. e - ven in its pains: \_\_\_ so \_\_\_ are \_\_\_ we,
3. (Instrumental continues)
4. warm \_\_\_ with - in the cold: \_\_\_ so \_\_\_ are \_\_\_ we,

Bb C Dsus4 Dm F C Gm7 A Cadd9 *rit.* G

1. watch - ful \_\_\_ and free, \_\_\_ peace - ful in \_\_\_ your night. \_\_\_
2. watch - ful \_\_\_ and free, \_\_\_ wait - ing for \_\_\_ your word. \_\_\_
3. (Instrumental continues)
4. watch - ful \_\_\_ and free, \_\_\_ peace - ful in \_\_\_ your night. \_\_\_

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\*There are two performance alternatives: 1) sing each verse only on its corresponding Sunday; or  
2) use the continuous version as described in the Performance Notes.

\*\*If using one verse per week, Piano (with or without C Instrument) can play from [A] to [C].

**C** Cantor or Choir

*mf a tempo*

D Am G D

- 1. Peace - ful in your night, re - mem - ber - ing kind - ness, the
- 2. Wait - ing for your word, the free - dom that feeds us, the
- 3. Long - er light de - lays; the can - dles be - fore us say
- 4. Peace - ful in your night, our sight still in blind - ness, yet

Cmaj7 Bbmaj7 Eb Dm Am

- 1. love that re - minds us: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. love that re - ceives us: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Christ will re - store us: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. love still re - minds us: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, \_\_\_\_\_

F(#11) F Em Gsus4 G

*f* *poco rit.*

- 1. Christ is our light, Christ is our light. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Christ is your word, Christ is your word. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Christ is the way, Christ is the way. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Christ is our light, Christ is our light. \_\_\_\_\_

**D** REFRAIN: All

*f a tempo*

C Fadd9/C Cmaj9 C Am Dm Em

Christ is the way, Christ is the light, Christ is the word of life.

F Em Dm7 G G7/C C G7/C C F/A C/G Am

*mf*

Come, Lord Je - sus, shine! \_\_\_\_\_

**E**

Ending for Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4

Bb *rit.* F *molto rit.* *8va* *8vb* *Fine*

Alternative endings for continuous version(s) of Wreath Song

**F**

**G**

Bridge to Verse 2 or 4 Bb *rit.* D.S. (b)

Bridge to Verse 3 Bb A7sus4 *rit.* A7 to Verse 3 **C**

\*C Instrument enters here.

## Assembly Edition

### WREATH SONG (Like Winter Waiting)

John Foley, S. J.

Refrain: All



Christ is the way, Christ is the light, Christ is the word of



life. Come, Lord Je - sus, shine!

Verses: Cantor

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Like winter waiting for spring,<br/>like darkness awaiting<br/>a sign of early light,<br/>and like sorrow, in its silence,<br/>seeking voice to sing,<br/>so are we, watchful and free,<br/>peaceful in your night.<br/>Peaceful in your night,<br/>remembering kindness,<br/>the love that reminds us:<br/>Christ, Christ is our light,<br/>Christ is our light. <b>(to Refrain)</b></p>         | <p>3. Longer light delays;<br/>the candles before us<br/>say Christ will restore us:<br/>Christ, Christ is the way,<br/>Christ is the way. <b>(to Refrain)</b></p>   |
| <p>2. Like desert seeking for rain,<br/>like stillness recalling<br/>the sounds of life unheard,<br/>and like childhood, seeking wisdom,<br/>even in its pains:<br/>so are we, watchful and free,<br/>waiting for your word.<br/>Waiting for your word,<br/>the freedom that feeds us,<br/>the love that receives us:<br/>Christ, Christ is your word,<br/>Christ is your word. <b>(to Refrain)</b></p> | <p>4. The winter snowfalls unfold,<br/>and wild geese a-calling<br/>turn yearning into flights,<br/>and the branches shed their garments,<br/>warm within the cold:<br/>so are we, watchful and free,<br/>peaceful in your night.<br/>Peaceful in your night,<br/>our sight still in blindness,<br/>yet love still reminds us:<br/>Christ, Christ is our light,<br/>Christ is our light. <b>(to Refrain)</b></p> |

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