



Preparing Our Hearts

An Advent Candle-lighting Service

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
Ruth Elaine Schram

Usage: Advent/Candle-lighting

Also available:

Downloadable Accompaniment MP3 (e99/4600L)

Scripture references:

Isaiah 61:1–3; Isaiah 53:4–6; John 3:16–17; Zephaniah 3:14–17



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RESPONSIVE READINGS: (Congregation in bold)
Each reading is to be read between measures 26-46.

WEEK ONE:

For centuries, we have longed for the fulfillment of God's promise.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Hope our Redeemer will bring.

We have been empty and incomplete, yearning for the Messiah.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Hope our Redeemer will bring.

We have been lost in the darkness, searching for God's Light to lead us.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Hope our Redeemer will bring.

Send us a Savior, Lord; our hearts await the Hope that only He can provide.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Hope our Redeemer will bring.

WEEK TWO:

For centuries, we have struggled to watch and wait for God's salvation.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Peace our Redeemer will bring.

We have been restless and conflicted, yearning for the Messiah.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Peace our Redeemer will bring.

We have been wandering in vain, searching for a peace that transcends earthly understanding.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Peace our Redeemer will bring.

Send us a Savior, Lord; our hearts await the Peace that only He can provide.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Peace our Redeemer will bring.

WEEK THREE:

For centuries, we have faithfully claimed the promise that God will send a Savior to dwell among us.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Love our Redeemer will bring.

We have searched the skies for a sign. We have studied the Scriptures. We have longed to see His face, to hear His voice, to worship at the feet of the One whom God will send to us.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Love our Redeemer will bring.

We are capable of love only because God first loved us. Send us a Savior, Lord; our hearts await the Love that only He can provide.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Love our Redeemer will bring.

WEEK FOUR:

For centuries, we have suffered the sorrow and sadness of longing and loneliness. We anticipate the arrival of the Promised Child with Joy.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Joy our Redeemer will bring.

We have struggled against the grief and the fear, praying the day would quickly come when we would meet the Messiah.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Joy our Redeemer will bring.

We are ready, O Lord, we are ready to see Your salvation, we are ready to receive Your Redeemer, we are ready to open our hearts to this Child who will give us a glimpse of the glory of heaven.

We are preparing our hearts

For the Joy our Redeemer will bring.

WEEK FIVE: (The Christ Candle, optional)

We are ready, O Lord, to see the Light of Your love in this Child's eyes, to feel the warmth of Your embrace through this Child's hands, and to know the joy of Your presence through this Child dwelling among us.

We are preparing our hearts for the Christ Child.

A Child will be born, bringing Hope.

A Son will be given, bringing Peace.

We are preparing our hearts for the Christ Child.

A Redeemer will come, bringing Love.

A Messiah will come, bringing Joy.

We are preparing our hearts for the Christ Child.

All: Come to us, Redeemer, Savior, Messiah. Come, Child of Hope, Child of Peace, Child of Love, Child of Joy.

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SATB and Piano with opt. Handbells, Cello, and Flute*

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Quoting: STILL, STILL, STILL, Traditional
and **WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS,**
by **G. F. Handel (1685-1759)**

Tenderly ♩ = ca. 88

+Inst.

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked *mp*. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes, and the left hand plays a simple bass line. The tempo is marked 'Tenderly' with a quarter note equal to approximately 88 beats per minute.

4 SA

TB

mp

In a sta - ble

-Fl., HB

Vocal and piano accompaniment for the first phrase. The Soprano (SA) and Tenor (TB) parts enter with the melody. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

7

near the inn, a man - ger bed a - waits

Vocal and piano accompaniment for the second phrase. The vocal parts continue the melody, and the piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note pattern in the right hand and the simple bass line in the left hand.

*Parts for Handbells, Cello, and Flute are on pages 10-12.

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10

mp

for the Ba - by who will bring an end to our des - p'rate

+HB

13

mf

state. We are pre-par - ing our hearts; we are

mf

-HB, Vc.

+Fl.

16

rall.

a tempo

pa - tient - ly wait - ing for the Sav - ior, for the Ba - by

rall.

+HB, Vc.

a tempo

19

who will bring an end to our des - p'rate state. He will

-Fl.

22

come, come, bring - ing hope, bring - ing hope, (peace, love, joy)

come, come, come to us.

come bring - ing hope, hope, (peace, love, joy)

come bring - ing peace, peace.

come bring - ing love, love.

come bring - ing joy, joy.

come, Christ will come to us.

rall.

a tempo

+Fl.

rall.

a tempo

mp

(Responsive Reading for the week begins)

Play melody only if there's no flute

26

-HB, Ve.

-HB, Ve.

5. come _____ *cresc.* bring - ing

come, Christ will come, *cresc.* bring - ing

5. +Fl. *mf* *cresc.*

54 hope, bring - ing peace. *f* He will come *rit.* bring - ing

-Fl. *f* *rit.*

57 love, bring - ing joy! _____

+Fl.

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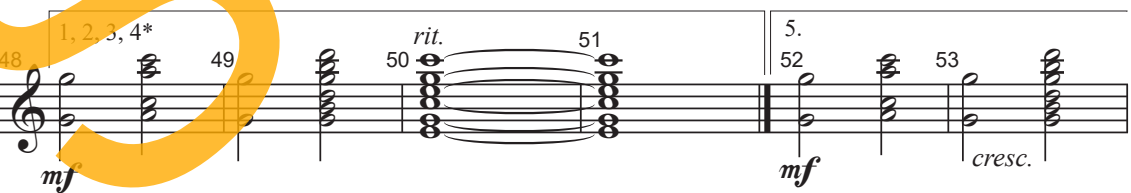
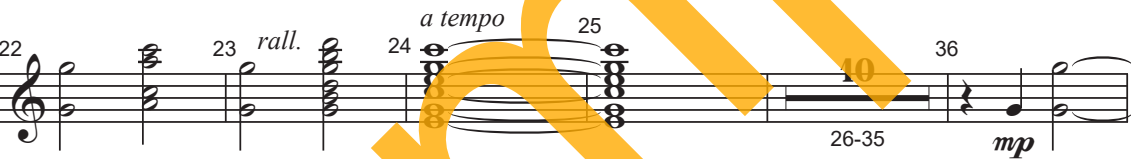
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4 Octaves
Handbells Used: 13



Tenderly ♩ = ca. 88



* If using the Christ Candle on Week 5, use this ending for Week 4.
If not using the Christ Candle, use the Final ending for Week 4.

Cello

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Measures 1-55 are shown. Measure numbers 6, 10, 14-15, 16-17, 22, 26-34, 36, 41, 46, 50, and 55 are indicated. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *cresc.*, *rit.*, and *mf*. Articulations include accents and slurs. A large orange 'SAMPLE' watermark is diagonally across the page.

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If not using the Christ Candle, use the Final ending for Week 4.



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mp

5 *rall.*

a tempo 6-14 *mf*

17 *rall.* *a tempo* 20-22

25 *mp*

29

33 36-39 *mf*

41 44-47 *mp* 1, 2, 3, 4*

49 *rit.* 2 *mf* *cresc.* 5.

54 *rit.* 2 *f* 56-57

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