



Pastor Gary Clark
Sermon Guide Notes: December 21, 2025

Title: Anticipation: The Long Wait for Christmas Fulfilled

Date: December 21, 2025

Main Theme: The story of Jesus' birth began long before Bethlehem — a story of anticipation, promises, and the fulfillment in Christ.

Outline:

1. Anticipation Begins in the Garden

- Genesis 3:14–15: God's first promise of a Savior after the fall of mankind
- The 'Seed of the woman' points ahead to Jesus, born of a virgin
- The rescue plan begins from day one

2. The Promise to Abraham

- Genesis 12:1–3; Galatians 3:8
- God promises that through Abraham, all nations will be blessed
- Faith means trusting God's timing, even across generations

3. Hope Through the Prophets

- Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2, Jeremiah 23:5, Zechariah 9:9
- Powerful words during dark times
- God used prophets to remind Israel that hope was still coming

4. The Wait Rewarded – The Story of Simeon and Anna

- Luke 2:25–32
- After 400 years of silence, Jesus arrives
- Faithful followers like Simeon and Anna waited and were not disappointed

5. We Are Now the Ones Waiting

- Romans 8:22–23; Revelation 22:20
- Jesus came once... and He's coming again



- We live in hope, not just of His first coming, but His return in glory

George Matheson

- A theologian who lost his sight but never lost hope
- His hymn 'O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go' reminds us that waiting well is about never letting go of God's promises

Three Things You Can Do While You Wait:

1. Wait with Faith — Trust God's promises even when you can't see the answer
2. Worship While You Wait — Use this season to deepen your love for God
3. Watch and Stay Ready — Keep your spiritual eyes open for what God is doing

Closing Thought:

This Christmas, remember, God has come near. Jesus is the Promise fulfilled, and the King who will come again.

Merry Christmas! I hope to see you on Christmas Eve or Eve's Eve. Invite a friend and celebrate the arrival of the One we've been waiting for — He is here... and He is coming again!

Christmas Eve's Eve Services-December 23rd: 6pm and 8pm

*Children's service during the 6pm service only

Christmas Eve Service-December 24th: 6pm

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