

The Dawning of Hope

A prayer for Advent

Lamentations 3:26 - it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

This prayer is in two parts, it can be used as a whole or the first part as a call to worship, using the second as a response later in the service. They are clearly held together by the affirmation “*our hope is in the Lord*”.

From the outset of time;
The dawn of creation
At the root of existence
The source of all things

Response: **Our hope is in the Lord**

At the end of history
Revealed in his majesty
Reigning in eternity
Opening the door to his everlasting kingdom

Response: **Our hope is in the Lord**

As our friend and our brother
Walking by our side
Present in all things
Through sunshine and storm

Response: **Our hope is in the Lord**

When the task overwhelms us
And the road we should follow, unclear;
When answers elude us
And explanations are nowhere to be found:

R: **Our hope is in the Lord**

When encouraged to trust in our own ability,
Or believe that we can fathom Your Divine purpose;
When we enjoy the praise of others
And the pleasure of achievement

R: **Our hope is in the Lord**

When others disappoint us
Or become those that we let down;
When despair becomes the easy option
And failure seems inevitable

R: **Our hope is in the Lord**

When success comes quickly
And familiar tasks are completed with ease;
When seduced by the obvious,
Locked in tradition and cosseted by routine:

R: **Our hope is in the Lord**

In a world that demands proof, fears risk
And struggles to place trust before suspicion;
Whose institutions are wracked with uncertainty,
And whose solutions perpetuate as much as they resolve

R: **Our hope is in the Lord**

As those who have seen its first-light dawning
In the face of Mary’s outcast child and the torn flesh of a
thorn-crowned king

As those who journey to its consummation
And are called to be signs of His coming

R: **Our hope is in the Lord**