

**First Week of Advent:**

We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully. The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light. You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

(Light the first purple candle)

(sing) Holy darkness, blessed night / heaven's answer hidden from our sight / As we await you O God of silence / we embrace your holy night.

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**Second Week of Advent:** (Light the first purple candle)

We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully. It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe—blankets of stars, the solitary glowings of distant planets. It was the darkness that allowed the Magi to find the star that guided them to where the Christ-child lay. You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

(Light the second purple candle)

(sing) Holy darkness, blessed night / heaven's answer hidden from our sight / As we await you O God of silence / we embrace your holy night.

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**Third Week of Advent:** (Light the first two candles)

We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully. In the darkness of the night, desert peoples find relief from the cruel relentless heat of the sun. In the blessed desert darkness, Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt. You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

(Light the pink candle)

(sing) Holy darkness, blessed night / heaven's answer hidden from our sight / As we await you O God of silence / we embrace your holy night.

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**Fourth Week of Advent:** (Light the first three candles)

We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully. In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed. In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams. God is speaking still. You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

(Light the last purple candle)

(sing) Holy darkness, blessed night / heaven's answer hidden from our sight / As we await you O God of silence / we embrace your holy night.

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**Christmas Eve or Day:** (Light the first four candles)

We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully. Sometimes, in the solitude of darkness, our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions rise to the surface. We come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us. And in that same darkness, we find companionship for the journey. In that same darkness, we sometimes allow ourselves to wonder and worry whether the human race is going to survive. We know you are with us, O God, yet we still await your coming. In the darkness that contains both our hopelessness and our expectancy, we watch for a sign of God's hope.

(Light the white Christ candle)

(sing) Holy darkness, blessed night / heaven's answer hidden from our sight / As we await you O God of silence / we embrace your holy night.

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Here is the music for the song at the end of each week's Advent Liturgy:

# Holy Darkness

Dan Schutte

Ho - ly dark - ness, bless - ed night, heav - en's

3  
an - swer hid - den from our sight. As we a - wait you, O God of

6  
si - lence, we em - brace your ho - ly night.