

### **December 1**

It seems we are always waiting ... for the mail, for a bus, for the workday to be over. We wait for the dinner timer, for the sports season to start, for the first snowfall.

And now we wait for a Savior to take us away from all the unpleasantness of this world. Mary waited for her baby to be born, and the first century Christians waited for Jesus to return as He promised.

What are you waiting for this Advent season?

### **December 2**

As we wait for the mail to arrive, we check the clock. We know it will be in our mailbox at about 3:00 each afternoon. So expectations climb as the time approaches. And we become irritated if that expected communication is delayed.

But worry and agitation will not speed up delivery, We must be patient and trust the U.S. Postal Service with our valuable piece of mail.

Are you waiting patiently for God's communication this Advent season?

### **December 3**

As any mother knows, the waiting is the hardest part of pregnancy. It's difficult to not worry about everything that *might* go wrong, to focus on the anticipated joyful arrival, and to prepare the things the baby will need.

But the best-laid plans ... No room at the inn, shepherds barging in, wise men bringing gifts, and now Herod is trying to kill the baby! What next?!

Mary couldn't predict what God would do next, and neither can we.

Are you prepared for the unexpected this Advent season?

### **December 4**

You followed the recipe exactly, carefully measuring every ingredient. Then you placed your precious creation in the oven, which is set to the exact prescribed temperature. You hope for delicious results from your labor.

And now you wait. As wonderful smells begin to fill your kitchen, you begin to wonder ... Will it turn out as you hope? Will it deliver the promised result? Will it satisfy your hunger?

What are you hungry for this Advent season?

### **December 5**

Curled up in your favorite chair, still snuggled into your most comfortable pajamas, the smell of freshly brewed coffee drifting from the cup on the table beside you, you anxiously check in on characters you've come to know very well in a spell-binding book. Suddenly you are angry with the author! That character certainly did NOT deserve THAT outcome! What in the world did this writer have planned when he came up with THAT idea? But you continue to read, trusting the author to work everything out.

Are you trusting God to work everything out as you wait this Advent season?

### **December 6**

Hospice has been called. The medical team can do no more than make her last days on earth as comfortable as possible. The life that was extremely precious to you is slipping away. First, you wait for the rest of the family to arrive. And then you wait for the end. Even though you comfort each other, and you know she has made her peace with God and is ready to enter the gates of Heaven, your heart is heavy.

Mary trusted God, even as her son hung on the cross. But God's plan is perfect, though not often easy. "Are ye able?" says the Master ...