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Wait and See (Simeon and Anna)

In the drab waiting-room
the failed travellers, resigned, sleep
on the hard benches, inured
to postponement and foul coffee.
Hope has given up on them.

There are also the impatient,
pacing platforms, and the driven,
purple with frustration, abusing
their mobiles, for the hardest part
of waiting is the not doing.

Truly to wait is pure dependence.
But waiting too long the heart
grows sclerotic. Will it still
be fit to leap when the time comes?
Prayer is waiting with desire.

Two aged lives incarnate
century on century
of waiting for God, their waiting-room
his temple, waiting on his presence,
marking time by practising

the cycle of the sacrifices,
ferial and festival,
circling onward, spiralling
towards a centre out ahead,
seasons of revolving hope.

Holding out for God who cannot
be given up for dead, holding
him to his promises - not now,
not just yet, but soon, surely,
eyes will see what hearts await.

*Quoted in Free Churches Group Newsletter
December 2022*

***May I wish you a blessed and peaceful
Christmas and New Year and a time to
have some stillness and rest in our busy
world.***

***A couple of weeks ago I was sitting
with a parishioner and her new 2-week-
old baby George. The babe was gazing
intently at his mother as she smiled,
her face aglow with joy, goodness
and love.***

***I treasure this memory as it has helped
to bring home to me the true meaning
of Christmas, the miracle of life and the
birth of Jesus, our Saviour coming into
to our world to be Emmanuel, one with
us.***

***I hope our weekly Justice and Peace
news has been of use to you in 2022***

All Good Wishes

Mary Bradley

