A Carol for Advent

[A song based on words by Jill Knuth, sent to friends with our pre-Christmas letter in December 2001.]

“Carols” — songs written to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the spirit of love and generosity that has long been associated with the Christmas season — are among the most delightful songs in the popular cultures of many lands. We begin to hear these familiar tunes each year in late November and throughout the month of December.

But Christians who grew up with a strong liturgical tradition, like my wife and myself, prefer not to sing Christmas carols until December 24. “Christmas Eve,” because the four weeks preceding Christmas Day are traditionally a time of preparation and waiting, called Advent.

That leaves us with four weeks in which there’s a relative dearth of special songs to sing. Therefore Jill was inspired to write the words to an Advent Carol, “A Baby is Promised.” A few months later, I set her words to music, with four-part harmony (soprano, alto, tenor, bass); and we sent it to our friends in time for the Advent season of 2001.

One can, of course, sing the verses in unison, preferably with piano accompaniment (at least until the harmonies become familiar).

This piece is dedicated to our grandsons, Rees Levi Tucker, Carter John Knuth, Kevin Don Knuth, and Kadin Morris Tucker, two of whom were born between the time we wrote it and the time we shared it.

When we first sent out the music we suggested that people might enjoy looking up the following Bible verses: 2 Kings 6:33, Isaiah 30:18, Luke 2:25.

Incidentally, Jill has also designed and made a dozen or so inspiring banners that are especially appropriate for the days of Advent. They are discussed in the first 23 pages of her book Banners Without Words (San José, California: Resource Publications, 1986).
1. It's December already, There's so much to do, To be ready for Christmas.
2. We're harried, we're tired, Confused and hard pressed. Our tempers are frazzled, We
3. The world is broken And fractured and torn. That baby, that Savior, When
4. He's here! He's here! The gift from above: He's bursting with energy, ever get through? A Baby is
long for some rest. A Baby is
will he be born? A Baby is
Promise and love. The Baby long
promised, A Savior, the Word! But watching is
promised, A Savior, the Word! But watching is
promised, A Savior, the Word! But watching is
promised, The Savior, the Word! * Watching is

wear- some, Waiting is hard.
wear- some, Waiting is hard.
wear- some, Waiting is hard.

joy when we Wait for our Lord!

* : Omit this note on the final verse.