

## Beneath the Southern Cross

From the ends of the earth we will sing  
God is here, the kingdom is near  
In the land of the long white cloud.  
Christ to dwell, Emmanuelle.

From north and south, from east and west.  
Beneath the Southern Cross we rest.  
Bound by one who came for all.  
In this tail of spacious love we're born.

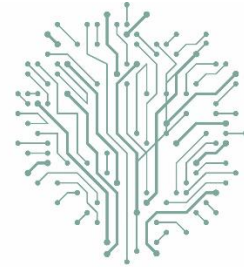
This special bare earth on which we stand.  
This holy ground made by God's hand.  
Mired and suned, yet maked by grace  
Now healed by Christ we find our place

From the ends of the earth we will sing  
God is here, the kingdom is near.  
In the land of the long white cloud.  
Christ to dwell, Emmanuelle.

God of nations at thy feet.  
In the bonds of love we meet.  
Strangers once now called as one.  
Aotearoa a way to breathe this love.

From the ends of the earth we will sing  
God is here, the kingdom is near.  
In the land of the long white cloud.  
Christ to dwell, Emmanuelle. \* 2

From north and south, from east and west,  
Beneath the Southern Cross we rest.  
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*Malcom Gordon & Catherine Burton@2016 [Songs for the Saints](#),*



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Psalm 121  
Seasons of Creation  
Mountains

### Welcome

[An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering](#)  
In this season of creation let us worship the God of mountains whose constant presence watches over us.

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

God our Creator, as we look to the mountains, we celebrate the wonders of the wild that surround us.

Help us to see in the surrounding landscape the places where the planet has been polluted and to empathise with the groaning of creation beneath us.

Teach us to recognise that the hills are alive with your Spirit and to rejoice with all the creatures of the wild.

In the name of Christ who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen. 1.

### Music for Reflection

[Suggested song: Beneath the Southern Cross](#)  
*Malcom Gordon & Catherine Burton@2016 [Songs for the Saints](#),  
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/beneath-the-southern-cross-2>*

### Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer them a word of greeting and peace.

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Saltbush Community Ministers

- 1 Seasons of Creation: Mountain Sunday Liturgy 2
- 2 Bread for Tomorrow: Janet Morley – Christian Aid, 1990 page 148

# The Word around the Bush

## Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

## The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.

## Questions for conversation

- I wonder what you have heard and thought from the Word today?
- I wonder if you have a special mountain or hill that speaks to you of God's invitation to life and faith?
- What do you hear when you go there?
- What one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?

## Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

- You may like to say the prayer phrase "Mar-an-ath-a" (which means come Lord). Say this as four syllables. Do not try to think or imagine anything. If thoughts or distractions come simply return to saying the word.
- Or you may like "sitting with God" — a silent time in which we focus all our mind, heart and soul on the presence of God without trying to create it. Simply be still and open to God.

# Prayers for Others

O God the source of our common life,  
when we are dry and scattered,  
when we are divided and alone,  
we long for connection,  
we long for community.

**Breath of God, breathe on us.**

With those we live beside,  
who are often strange to us,  
whom we may be afraid to approach,  
yet who have riches of friendship to share,  
we long for connection, we long for community

**Breath of God, breathe on us.**

With those we have only heard of,  
who see with different eyes,  
whose struggles we try to imagine,  
whose fierce joy we wish we could grasp,  
we long for connection, we long for community

**Breath of God, breathe on us.**

When we are dry and scattered,  
when we are divided and alone,  
when we are cut off from the source of our life,  
open our graves, O God,  
that all your people  
may be free to breathe, strong to move  
and joyful to stand together  
to celebrate your name.

**Amen.**

## Closing Responses & Blessing

From mountain tops let our praise ring out to all the world, of the Lord who never sleeps or slumbers. Of the one who is near, who looks out for all night and day.

**Send us to care for your creation from this time on and forevermore.**

Bless us and the people we meet along the way  
Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.

**Amen**