

Suggested song: [Mary's Response](#)

LUKE: Illustrated Gospel Project at illustratedgospel.org
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<https://malcolm-gordon.bandcamp.com/album/luke-illustrated-gospel-project>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Like Mary, may your soul rejoice in God,
As you tell of the good news of the coming of the
Christ Child, to all you meet.

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

Hey Mary

Hey Mary,
there's an angel in your house!
Said, 'Mary have I got some news for you.
You seem to think you're nothing much but
Heaven's coming close enough to touch, yeah!
Hey Mary, God is coming here through you!

Hey Sam,
there's an angel in your house!
Said, 'Sam have I got some news for you.
You seem to think you're nothing much but
Heaven's coming close enough to touch, yeah!
Hey Sam, God is coming here through you!

There is no such thing as ordinary now God is here.
Every life and breath is blessed,
you never know when God might appear.

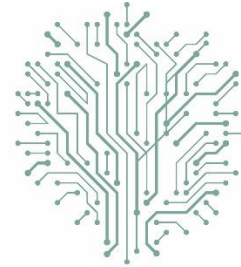
Hey Lucy,
there's an angel in your house!
Said, 'Lucy have I got some news for you.
You seem to think you're nothing much but
Heaven's coming close enough to touch, yeah!
Hey Lucy, God is coming here through you!

There is no such thing as ordinary now, God is here.
Every life and breath is blessed,
you never know when God might appear. * 2

Hey People,
there's an angel in your house!
Said, 'People have I got some news for you.
You seem to think you're nothing much but
Heaven's coming close enough to touch, yeah!
Hey People, God is coming here through you!

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Saltbush Community Ministers
1 Dorothy McRae-McMahon. 2007.
Page 37/38, Liturgies for High Days.



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

A Holy Communion video led liturgy is available at
<https://vimeo.com/572335335>

Luke 1: 39 – 56
Advent 4

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Let the world hold its breath,
for good is coming in all its vulnerable newness.
Deep within our life a wonder is conceived,
hidden in humanity's moments of faithfulness.

Look for it, for it is near.
Believe in it, for it is of God.
Be ready to nurture its life among us,
for it is a precious gift for all history.
Christmas is drawing close.
Thanks, and praise be to our God. 1.
Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Hey Mary](#)

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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.

The Word around the Bush

Luke 1: 39 – 56

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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?

● As you hear the stirrings of Jesus in the darkness of the womb, what will unwrapping the Christmas gift look like for you, your family and your Church in this season of Advent?

● 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

God, who comes to us unexpectedly, hear our prayers despite our limited vision and our low expectations of what is possible in this world.

If our prayers are limited by our human visions for the future, enlarge them with your grandeur of purpose. If they are limited by our lack of faith, expand our hearts and souls this day, that we may dare to pray for nothing less than the coming of your reign in all the earth.

Silence

In the silence, our lives are touched by you, Jesus Christ.

We will receive all that you offer us, O God, all that inspires and open us to the breath of your dreams.

In this spirit, we now bring you our prayers for ourselves and others;

The people pray:

Break into our lives, O God.

Bring down your justice like rain upon the earth. Raise up, from within the depths of our lives, love that will never let our neighbours go.

Cover us with healing grace and conceive in the centre of despair surprising freshness and energies for creative change. Surround us with ideas which spring up like green shoots in concrete, defying dryness and challenging deathliness. For you are our God and we your people. We would be those who never lay down the great hope to which we are called. 1.

Amen.