



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 21:25-36
Saying Hello to Here
Advent 1c

Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we share our lives with others.

Lighting of Christ Candle

God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ the light of the world. May the light shine for the hope of the world.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

God of our Lives,

So much is happening in our world. We are living through a time of great uncertainty, of pandemics and climate change, of social upheaval and technological revolution.

You invite us to name our fears, those events that are perilous and confronting.

You call us to be present to the now, to say hello to the here.

That we would then see clearly and know your movement in our lives. The promise of a new way, an eternal truth, through Christ. Amen

Song:

[O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#) Anna Hawkins
<https://youtu.be/MD-jBLZSZNU>

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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 21:25-36

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees;³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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 what you heard in the Word for our church?
- 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

Loving God, you who come to us in the midst of our greatest fears, with the promise of a transformed world, a renewed creation and an everlasting peace. May we act and give voice to your movement, ministers of reconciliation.

For all who suffer under the weight of discrimination, bigotry and hatred. May they know they are valued and loved.

For those who struggle with mental, physical or emotional illnesses. May they know you walk alongside them.

For your creation. May we rejoice in its beauty and work for its care and protection.

For ourselves and those we love..

We bring you our prayers in the name of Christ. Amen.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, listen for the movement of God in your lives, the clear leading of the Spirit, be ready for the presence of Christ and know your journey with hope, love and peace.

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