



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY



John 1:1-14  
Christmas Day- God's Extravagant  
Invitation

## Welcome

Happy Christmas!

## 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

The dawn has come, gentle as the being of a child,  
clothed in the light of its newness.

The dawn has come, not in the harsh midday sun, but  
as frail rays of pale light, feeling their way through the  
darkness.

The dawn has come, calling the world into vulnerable  
hope and claiming a space for God deep in the centre  
of our brokenness.

**The dawn has come! Let us worship our God, for this  
is Christmas Day. \***

## Song:

[Joy to the World](#) (sung by Nathan Drake)

<https://nathandrake.bandcamp.com/album/reawaken-christmas-acoustic>

## Passing the Christmas Greeting

Christ is born amongst us. **Joy to the World!**

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

## The Word around the Bush

### John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## 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

O God, on this day of all days, we pray for the world, in its yearnings for signs of good and hope, in its fears that nothing will ever change enough for a free and just life to be given to its people. (silent reflection)

We pray for those who look with longing eyes for any tiny sign that there are better things to come, who clutch the fragments of survival as though tomorrow they may never see the dawn. (silent reflection)

Come in new possibilities amongst us all. For a renewed creation, a just and fair world, where talk of peace and fellowship drown out the drums of discord and war and where we may again know that God is with us and we are with God.

**Join us in every place, Jesus Christ.**

**Visit us whoever we are and wherever we are on this day, we pray in your name. Amen. \***

## Song for Reflection:

[Child of the Morning](https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/61-child-of-the-morning). By Peter Kearney

<https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/61-child-of-the-morning>

## Closing Commissioning & Blessing

Go into the world which God so loves and carry the Good News that the Christ has come to all people.

Go with the blessing of the Christ who surprises us with grace.

Go with the beauty of the Creator who makes all things new and go with the Holy Spirit, the bringer of peace. Amen. \*

Acknowledgment:

\* Liturgies for High Days by Dorothy McRae-McMahon