

Closing Responses & Blessing

From prison and the wilderness good news is proclaimed by prophets that the time is coming. The one who has been promised is near and they come proclaiming good news to the poor, sight to the blind, the lame walk and leper cleansed.

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

God's Spirit is on me

1. God's Spirit is on me
God's breath is within me
God's driving wind behind me
So the blind can see again
So the bound are free again
God's Spirit is on me now

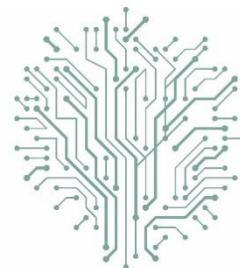
2. God's Spirit is on you
God's breath is within you
God's driving wind behind you
So good news can find the poor
For the Lord is good to all
God's Spirit is on you now

3. God's Spirit is on us
God's breath is within us
God's driving wind behind us
Calling us and gracing us
Gifting us and placing us
God's Spirit in on us now.

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Written and performed by Malcolm Gordon
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/gods-spirit-is-on-me>

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Scattered Community Ministers

- 1 © The Rev. Susan A. Blain United Church of Christ's **WorshipWays** <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-a/ace/advent-third-sunday-of.html>
- 2 Adapted from: Janet Nelson: 2002. Let Us pray: Page 14. 3rd Sunday Advent. Year A



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 11: 2-11
Advent 3

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Lighting of the Advent Candle

In lighting this 3rd candle in Advent, may our waiting be brightened with the announcement that the deaf hear and the poor have good news brought to them in the coming of the light of the world.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

O God,
we come today echoing John the Baptist's question to your Beloved Child:

"Are you the one who is to come?"

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the answer for ourselves:

In the work of justice: Christ!

In the practice of mercy: Christ!

In good news for the poor: Christ!

In the vision of peace: Christ!

Make us ready, with open hearts and joyful spirits,
to follow in Christ's Way. 1.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [God's Spirit is on me](#)

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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

Matthew 11: 2-11

Messengers from John the Baptist

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."
¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What did you hear in the Word today?
- In what ways does your Christian Community live out the way of the prophetic tradition?

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

We pray for the world, for all places of conflict and strife.

When you come, the broken, bleeding lands are healed, places of death blossom with new life.

Come Jesus.

come and save us.

We pray for your people, for the persecuted and for those without food.

When you come, the hungry are fed, the oppressed are set free.

Come Jesus.

come and save us.

We pray for all people who live without dignity, for all who have no hope.

When you come, the poor receive justice and the humble are lifted high. Come Jesus.

come and save us.

We pray for all who suffer, for the sick in body or spirit.

When you come, the lame walk and the blind receive their sight.

Come Jesus.

come and save us.

We pray for the sad, the lonely and for all who mourn. When you come, sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Come Jesus.

come and save us.

We pray for the prophets in our midst who alert us to your coming.

When you come, may you find us ready to greet you. Come Jesus.

come and save us. 2. Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Our Father in Heaven](#)

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Written, performed and produced by Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/our-father-in-heaven-w-forest>