

We pray for those who cry out for support, for food, for health, or shelter.

Silence

We pray for those who have little expectation, for those who see little hope, for those who wait, but wonder what they are waiting for.

Silence

We pray for ourselves, when we find ourselves unsure of our expectations and hopes.

Silence

Lord, let us, and our world hear once more your Way; the way of God with us.

“The 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. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.” [Matthew 11: 5-6]

Lord come anew within and around. This is our prayer.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel...

Acknowledgment: © Suffjan Stevens

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6gP7dUSdWheJnqwVTdKcFL?si=2c17e8e33d5e431c>

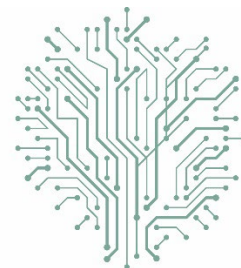
Closing Responses & Blessing

Go out into the world,
To love and serve the Lord.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen.



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**Matthew 3: 1-12
Advent 2**

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Welcome to Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we find ourselves, the people, and we pay our respects to their elders, past present and emerging.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

“A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”.

This is the season of preparing.
This is the time of waiting.
This is the season of hope and expectation.

Let us come as people, open to the Lord’s ways
and paths amongst us and throughout the world.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, from the cries of John the Baptist, to the Way of Christ, you have sought to dwell amongst your people. So come once more amongst us now, within and around, by your Spirit.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Prepare the Way of the Lord...

Acknowledgment: © Taizé

<https://open.spotify.com/track/2zJmMculRafMp7VtFs14Ch?si=02b12921549c456c>

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 3: 1-12

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”’

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after

me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Where do you find expectation and hope?
- What do you hear from the accounts of the life of John the Baptist?
- What will you take with you from today’s conversation and Word around the Bush?

A Time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still; a time of “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 others and for the people of this world. Let us pray.

This is the season of preparing.
This is the time of waiting.
This is the season of hope and expectation.

And yet we still hear the voice of those crying out in the wilderness.

We pray for those who cry out for justice and who long to be heard.

Silence

We pray for those who cry out for peace and who say, “If only you knew the things that make for peace”.

Silence