

Prayers for Others

We pray in your presence O God, who came amongst humanity in the form of a baby, and whose love is beyond measure.

God of the epiphany, those moments of clarity, of calling, of vision and hope.

We pray for epiphanies of Peace in our world.

[silence]

We pray for epiphanies of hope and love where people are downtrodden and forgotten.

[silence]

We pray for people we know who need a God presence in their lives; a joy, a calm, a clearness of mind, the hand of Christ upon them.

[silence]

We pray for ourselves, who so easily forget the hand of Christ upon us. Let us see our God, with us, before us, the epiphanal God reaching out to us.

[silence]

We give thanks amongst your people, O God, for your presence and way that leads us on.

These are our prayers. Amen.

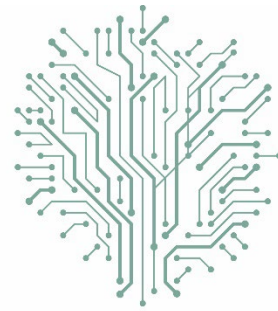
Closing Responses & Blessing

Rise up and go out, as people who have heard, known, seen the Christ amongst us, inviting us along the way.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.



SALT BUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 2: 1-12
Epiphany: A birth for all...

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Gathering Prayer

God comes amongst us in ways unexpected.
God comes amongst us in moments extraordinary.
God comes amongst us and dwells beside us, men,
women and children, of all places and times.

God with us!

Let us pray.

We give thanks for the birth of Jesus, his life, his call, his way amongst humanity. We give thanks that in moments of wonder, wise travellers, fishermen, women alongside, seekers and questioners, saw in his life, the way of God amongst us. As we come here today, open our eyes and minds Lord, that we too, would in wonder be open to you once more.

We pray. **Amen.**

Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: [Shine upon us...](https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/shine-on-us) @John Coleman
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/shine-on-us>

Prayer of Confession

We draw ourselves into confession for our world, our communities, our church, ourselves and the ways we have not loved you Lord, and not loved others as ourselves.

[silence]

Lord with you is forgiveness and life. Let us hear your words of forgiveness spoken to us and our world and may we be thankful in your presence. Go, your sin is forgiven. **Amen.**

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.

Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: Christ before me

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<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2>

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 2: 1-12. The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go

and pay him homage.' 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

(Exploring life and faith together)

- What is an epiphany?
- What came to you as part of today's reading?
- What would an epiphany look like in today's times and world.... And in our lives?

A time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. 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.