

Prayers for Others

Eternal God, on this Christmas Day, we bring our prayers for others.

Just as you announced love through the humble, amongst the poor and in a manger, to shepherds, and farmers, and inn keepers in the countryside and shouted out to the world through Jesus Christ, so you are with us today.

Where there is hope, you are there.
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.
Where there is the struggle for peace, you are there.
Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.
Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.
Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.

•O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:
[Silence for personal prayer or invite others to open prayer in between each]

for our world, its leaders and people, for whom the Christ child was born ...
Silence

For others, even distant, we have heard about throughout our community and world ...
Silence

For people we know and are close to ...
Silence

For the church, so often distracted from the Christ ...
Silence

For ourselves ...
Silence

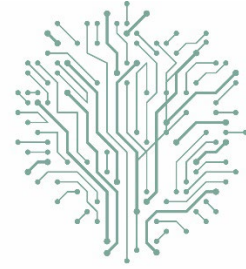
Closing Responses & Blessing

Lord, send us out on this Christmas Day, into our week and into our world, to share, announce, and live out your good news for our world, shown in Jesus Christ.

**Lord, bless us all as we go from this place today.
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

Christmas Day
Luke 2: 1-20

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Lighting of Advent Candle

You are invited to light a candle for Christmas Day.

We light this candle on Christmas Day. We celebrate today the birth of Jesus who said "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". (John 8: 12)

Light the Christmas candle.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

We give thanks to God on this day as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ:

For Joseph and Mary who opened themselves to God,
For ordinary places and times into which God comes,
For the greatness of those who seem the least,
For life, light, wonder and amazement,
For people of our world, who like Shepherds, simply come to see this thing that has taken place.

We give thanks on this day, for Jesus Christ, who has touched our own lives, and calls each of us to be announcers of Good News.

We give thanks on this day for light and life, come into the world.

God is with us! Christ is born.

●Holy One, when we are hard of hearing and blind to your presence in our lives and world.

Lord come to us anew.

When our faith is not lived out in action.

Lord come to us anew.

When fear overwhelms our amazement.

Lord come to us anew.

When your love as shown in the birth of Christ is not shown through our own lives.

Lord come to us anew.

And for the love, forgiveness and life of Jesus Christ we give thanks.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence](https://darbyhughes.bandcamp.com/track/let-all-mortal-flesh-keep-silence)
<https://darbyhughes.bandcamp.com/track/let-all-mortal-flesh-keep-silence>
Darby Hughes – Bandcamp.

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 2: 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- How do you draw the words of the birth of Jesus into your faith and life?
- What do you perceive as the “great truth” as Luke invites us into the story of the birth of Jesus?
- What did you hear in the word today?

Silence to ponder these things

- You may like to sit in silence for a time. Let us sit and ponder what we have heard, what we have known, of the birth of Jesus and the way of God in our world and lives.