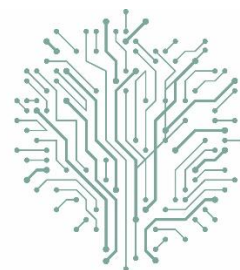


Epiphany

On Epiphany day,
we are still the people walking.
We are still people in the dark,
and the darkness looms large around us,
beset as we are by fear,
anxiety,
brutality,
violence,
loss —

a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.
We are — we could be — people of your light.
So we pray for the light of your glorious presence
as we wait for your appearing;
we pray for the light of your wondrous grace
as we exhaust our coping capacity;
we pray for your gift of newness that
will override our weariness;
we pray that we may see and know and hear and
trust
in your good rule.
That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to
enact
your rule through the demands of this day.
We submit our day to you and to your rule, with
deep joy and high hope.

Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933)



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Exploring the Epiphany

Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:29-42,
Matthew 4:12-23

Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we share our lives with others. We acknowledge the First Nations people on the land that we gather and pay our respects to elders past and present.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Eternal Light,
Awaken within us:
Your love that leads us into mystery.
Your wisdom that moves us to a deeper compassion.
Your peace that surpasses all understanding.
Your hope that sustains and strengthens us.
May we continue to encounter your presence.
May we be expressions of epiphany, in Christ.
Amen

Music for Reflection

[We Belong](#) – Tessa Macaulay, Cate Burton and Zoe Henderson

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/we-belong-tessa-macaulay-cate-burton-and-zoe-henderson>

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Season of Epiphany in January: Readings

**Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:29-42,
Matthew 4:12-23**

Exploring the Epiphany

Personal Epiphany-

Share your experiences of when God has broken through, brought a clearer insight into your lives, your faith. Challenged and brought into the light any prejudices, biases or hatreds you may be harbouring. Or deepened your understanding of God's love, compassion, mercy and grace as we encounter this in the person of Jesus Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit. Where you were changed and transformed as you witness a God that transcends all our expectations.

Being an Epiphany to Others

How are you an epiphany to others? How do your words and actions tear apart the boundaries that try to keep God from whom God loves? That tear apart the boundaries that inhibit others from experiencing God's grace? This world needs more epiphanies — people who are expression of love, compassion and grace.

Christian community as Epiphany

How do you as a gathering challenge the injustices, the hatred and division that seems to be normalised in our society now. How do you as a people of the epiphany bring the message of love, welcome and hospitality to everyone. In your gathering what are those blocks that stop others from encountering the God of love, the God who wants them to know the eternal essence of love. How are you a Christian community of the epiphany.

The Message

The Word Around the Bush invites you to explore what epiphany means for you and your Christian Community. You can do this at one gathering or explore all three themes (above) over three gatherings.

Prayers for Others

Living God, when we hear your voices saying: "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" And we long to answer, 'Here I am. Send me'. Give us the faith to follow you, O God.

(pause)

We hear the cry of the powerless and the suffering in the world and know you are moving towards them, Jesus Christ. Give us faith to follow you, O Christ.

(pause)

We see the destruction of your creation through pollutants that choke the oceans, the waterways and make the soil toxic. We believe you want to restore what you have called good. Give us the faith, to be co-creators with you.

(pause)

We know you are with those who are experiencing difficult days in our communities, may we be free to share our lives with them also.

(pause)

In this time of silence, we bring you prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

(Adapted from Dorothy McRae McMahon –
Echoes of our Journey)

Song:

New Kind of Day: Malcolm Gordon.

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/new-kind-of-day>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Come and See! Know the Living God!

The One who loves,

The One who nurtures,

The One who is Word.

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