

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here as those who are not afraid to be humble people of God, inviting in our own confessing life, the faith of others in the love of God.

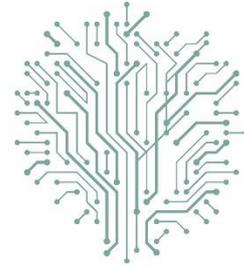
And may the whole earth be restored to hope, the heavens sing aloud with the promise of good to come <sup>1</sup> and  
Bless us and the people we meet along the way  
Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

Draw us from the shallows, out into the deep.  
Our faith was weak and hollow, but it's strengthened in our need.  
Though the waters overwhelm us, though the shore be far from sight, from the storm  
You call forth stillness, from the darkness  
You call light.

*Even the wind and the waves  
Will listen to Your voice  
Oh speak Your love and Your grace  
And calm the storm within*

Lead us from the certain, into your mystery.  
With fearless love abounding,  
You ride the raging seas.  
Though the waters overwhelm us, though the shore be far away, You walk on waves to find us, Your hands reach out to save.  
Far beyond the headland, where fear and freedom meet, the drowning and the dying,  
You haul us to our feet. Though the waters overwhelm us, though the shore is far behind.  
Drifting daughter's you will rescue, shipwrecked son's you will find.

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Liturgies for High Days – Advent 2



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Mark 1: 1-8  
Advent 2

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Lighting of Advent Candle

You are invited to arrange 5 candles for Advent and Christmas Day. This week we light the second candle. Listen for the voice in the desert, the wisdom from the most unlikely people, the water of healing and new life in unexpected places, including within ourselves<sup>1</sup>.

Light the first and second candles.

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Enter the waiting in hopefulness  
for the Christ will not turn away from us.  
Prepare yourself this day with a faith which carries us towards the presence of God without fear.

**For Christ will come in love,  
the Christ will come with grace upon grace.**

Turn around and find the surprising presence of kindness, inviting truth without judgement, frail as a child and strong as all goodness.

**For Christ will come in love,  
the Christ will come with grace upon grace<sup>1</sup>.  
Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Into the Deep](#)

Acknowledgment: ©2013 *Into the Deep*. Music by Malcolm Gordon and Matt Chapman, Lyrics by Malcolm Gordon.

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/into-the-deep-2>

## 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

**Mark 1: 1-13**

**The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ <sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

● I wonder what you have heard and thought from the Word today?

● I wonder what you heard in the Word for our church?

● What one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?

## 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

Blessings and honour to you, O God, who brings us into truth in ways which invite the genuine community of humankind and the whole creation.

Thank you that you so love us that you ask grander and greater things of us in the adventure of faith. It is in that strong spirit that we bring you our prayers as try to join your dreams and to carry your cross of brave love towards our neighbours.

These are those who move our hearts in concern today, O God:

*The people pray*

Be with these people, O God.

**Hear our prayers loving Christ,**

**and make your hopes alive in all that we do.**

**Be our wise companion, Holy Spirit, as we draw near to the struggling places of this earth and inspire in us a prophetic view of this time in history.**

Speak in healing and kindness into our own lives, Jesus Christ, entering the empty spaces or the closed doors of our souls and giving us new meaning and purpose in all that we are and do.

In the silence, we bring our personal lives to you, praying that we will know more clearly what it is that we need for this day.

*Silence*

Hear our prayers, O God.

**This we pray as we strive to be your true people<sup>1</sup>.**

**Amen.**