

Give to us here an energy and passion for good change and faithfulness so that we never give up, even when we cannot see the way ahead.

**Grant to us a spirit of adventure, O God,
as we walk towards impossible dreams,
for we know that nothing is impossible for you.
This we pray in your name, Jesus Christ ¹.**

Amen.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Send us out with eyes open and hearts awake.

Journey with us in this season of waiting and watching.

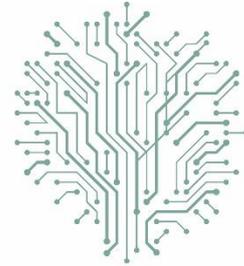
Bless us and the people we meet along the way,

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©
2020 Saltbush Community Ministers

1. © Dorothy McRae-McMahon 2006.
Liturgies for High Days – Advent 1



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**Mark 13: 24-37
Advent 1**

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Lighting of Advent Candle

You are invited to arrange 5 candles; 4 for Advent and 1 for Christmas Day. This week we light the first candle.

We light this candle
that it might shine around us
reminding us to stay awake
and to expect the coming of the Christ,
the love at the heart of all our longings ¹.

Light the first candle.

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

Wake us from our sleep Lord, that we would see light.
Wake us from our sleep Lord, that we would open
ourselves to your eternal presence in our world.
Wake us from our sleep Lord, that we would embrace
your love, forgiveness and the life you give.
Wake us from our sleep Lord, that we would hear
your word once more.

In this time and season, you announce again, as you
have done throughout the ages, that life and light is
upon us. And we are thankful.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: O Come O Come Emmanuel

Suffjan Stevens

<https://music.suffjan.com/track/o-come-o-come-emmanuel>

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 13: 24-37.

24 “But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he[a] is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert;[b] for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- As we know the turning of the living seasons, we are in the presence of the turning of the living God. How are we awake to what God is doing?
- 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

O God, we know that our prayers are the signs of our hope in you. Even as our faith is challenged by many things, even as we sometimes do not know what to pray, we come into your presence, trusting that you will listen and respond to us in love. These are those who are closest to our hearts this day:

The people pray...

Add your prayers to ours Holy Spirit, for your wisdom is far beyond our knowing. Wait with us as we try to understand our part in the well-being of those who wait for love, O God. Watch over them as they hope for a world which cares enough to act with justice, compassion and as agents of freedom.