

CHILD OF THE MORNING (Brightest and Best)  
Hail the blest morn when the great mediator  
Down from the regions of glory descends.  
Shepherds go worship the Babe in the manger  
Lo, for a God the great angels attend.

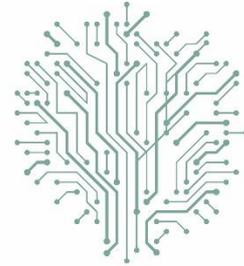
CHORUS: Brightest and best is the child of the morning.

Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.  
Star of the East - the horizon, the dawning -  
Guide where our Infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining.  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining -  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all. CHORUS

Vainly we offer each ample oblation.  
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure.  
Richer by far is the hearts adoration.  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor. CHORUS

Peter Kearney  
Words: Reginald Heber  
Music: Traditional



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 1:1-18  
Christmas 2: God in our Lives.

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Lighting of Christ Candle

You are invited to light the Christ candle.

The dawn has come,  
gentle as the being of a child,  
clothed in the light of its newness.

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

The dawn has come,  
not in the harsh midday sun,  
but as fragile rays of pale light,  
feeling their way through the darkness.

The dawn has come,  
calling the world into vulnerable hope  
and claiming a space for God  
deep in the centre of our brokenness.

**The dawn has come!**  
**Let us worship our God,**  
**For the Word has been revealed,**  
**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Song: [Morning has Broken](#)

Written by Eleanor Farjeon sung by Yusaf Islam (Cat Stevens) <https://youtu.be/we-n-Zmgl0>

### Passing the Peace

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

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©  
2020 Saltbush Community Ministers  
1. ©Dorothy McRae-McMahon 2006.  
Liturgies for High Days – Advent 4

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer them a word of greeting and peace.

## The Word around the Bush

### John 1:1-18

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## 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

O God, Light dispelling the darkness, we pray for the world, in its yearning for signs of good and hope, in its fears that nothing will ever change enough for free and just life to be given to its people. *Silence*

We pray for those who look with longing eyes for tiny signs that there are better things to come, who clutch the fragments of survival as though tomorrow they may never see the dawn. Especially we pray for these people and situations: *The people pray*

Come in new possibilities among them Jesus Christ. **As we celebrate your coming in gifts and gatherings of plenty, we make our commitment to them, the commitment that we will not forget them on this day or the next.**

And at this time when, for many people, betrayals and loneliness become stark, like the bare bones of death confronting the fullness of life as they see those who enjoy the privilege of love, we pray that you will hold them close to your heart.

Be with all those who find this season a mockery and painful reminder of who they are and what their life is like.

**Join us in every place Jesus Christ. Visit us wherever we are and wherever we are this day, we pray in your name <sup>1</sup> Amen.**

## Song: [Child of the Morning](#)

Peter Kearney  
<https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/61-child-of-the-morning>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Rejoice and 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**