

Closing Responses & Blessing

God has entrusted us with the work of the Kingdom.

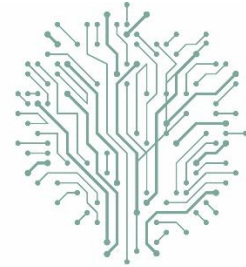
May we leave this time ready to listen, willing to change, and committed to bearing good fruit in our lives and communities.

May the God who calls us,
the Christ who walks with us,
and the Spirit who strengthens us
send us out in faith, courage and love.

Go in peace to serve God and one another.

Amen.

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 21: 33-46
What are we doing with God's
Vineyard?

Welcome

Welcome to worship. We are glad you are here.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves of God's grace, which serves as the illuminating light of the world.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of these lands and waters where we meet, the _____ Nation (of the _____ peoples).

We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, and to all descendants of this/these nations who have cared for this place since creation.

We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples here today.

Stuart McMillan

Assembly Consultant Covenanting Assembly Resourcing Unit

Music for Reflection

Suggested song:

Conerstone

The Worship Initiative

<https://open.spotify.com/search/cornerstone>

Passing the Peace

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

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 21: 33-46

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What fruit is God expecting to see in our lives and in our church?
- When do we find ourselves resisting God’s voice because it challenges us or makes us uncomfortable?
- How does this parable challenge us to use what God has entrusted to us for God’s Kingdom rather than for ourselves

Silence

Please take a moment to find a comfortable position and prepare yourself for five minutes of complete silence. Gently close your eyes and allow yourself to relax, while remaining fully present and aware of your surroundings.

Prayers of Confession and For Others

Loving God,

forgive us when we forget that all we have belongs to you.

Forgive us when we reject your voice, resist your ways, or fail to bear the fruits of justice, mercy and love.

Turn our hearts again towards Christ, and help us live faithfully as your people.

We pray for our world, nation, church, communities and families.

For those who are hurting, grieving, unwell, lonely or afraid; for communities facing violence and injustice; and for those who feel forgotten or pushed aside.

May your love bring comfort, courage and hope, and may we be willing to share the fruits of your Kingdom wherever you send us.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.