

•O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:  
[silence for personal prayer or invite others to  
open prayer in between each]

Your creation ...  
*Silence*

For others we have hear about throughout our  
world ...  
*Silence*

For other people we know and are close to ...  
*Silence*

For our church and our wider community ...  
*Silence*

For ourselves ...  
*Silence*

## Music for Reflection

**Suggested song:** Because we bear your name...

*Acknowledgment: © Robin Mann*

<https://robinmann.bandcamp.com/track/because-we-bear-your-name>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

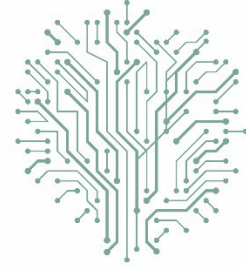
Go out into the world,  
To love and serve the Lord.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**Luke 18: 9-14  
Pentecost 20**

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Welcome to Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we find ourselves, the ..... people, and we pay our respects to their elders, past present and emerging.

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

We come from our villages, our homes, our families and the communities we find ourselves in.

We come as people of the land, the town, the city, the office, the home, the business, the paddock, the road or the classroom.

We come as the people of God.

**Lord, open our ears, our hearts, our eyes and our minds to expect you, to see your way, to know your goodness in our lives and the communities in which we live.**

**Come to us, once more, in our gathering and worship today. We pray.**

**We give thanks for those moments when we noticed you in the days past and your nearness to us. Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Come to the Circle...

Acknowledgment: © John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/come-to-the-circle>

## 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

Luke 18: 9-14

### The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." <sup>13</sup> But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- What do you notice in today's passage from Luke 18 and what stands out to you?
- What are your experiences in life of "righteous" and "unrighteous"?
- What will you take with you from today's conversation and Word around the Bush?

## A Time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still; a time of "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

Eternal God,  
where there is hope, you are there.  
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.  
Where there is the struggle for peace, you are there.  
Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.  
Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.  
Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In you is such longing for your creation, and for humanity, and we thank you for that presence of you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and saving.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.