

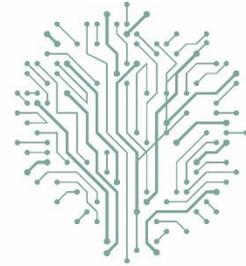
Closing Responses & Blessing

Go now in the light of Christ,
with eyes opened and hearts made new.

The Blessing of God,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

John 9: 1-41 & Psalm 23
From Blindness to Sight: The Shepherd
who leads us through the dark

Welcome

Welcome and greet your congregation and/or
faith community.

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:

Send Your Light, O Spirit

God's Offspring

<https://open.spotify.com/track/68XoRDQvFI4qXOxxHn3okk>

Passing the Peace

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

The Word around the Bush

Read John 9:1-41

Psalm 23

The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

- ¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.
⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not
put the Lord your God to the test.'"
⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high
mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of
the world and their glory, ⁹and he said to him,
"All these I will give you, if you will fall down and
worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Away
with you, Satan! for it is written,
'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"
¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels
came and waited on him.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- How does Psalm 23 help us trust God when we cannot yet "see" what He is doing in our lives?
- How do we see Jesus acting as a Shepherd, when He is guiding, protecting, and seeking out the man who was rejected?
- What does it look like to remain confident in God when our faith is challenged or misunderstood?

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

Gracious Shepherd,

We confess that we are often blind to your work among us.
We judge too quickly, speak too harshly, and fail to trust you.
Forgive us when we choose fear over faith and pride over compassion.
Open our eyes to see as Jesus sees.

Loving God,
We pray for those walking in darkness or uncertainty,
for the sick and the grieving,
for those who feel excluded or unheard,
and for all who long for guidance and peace.
Lead them beside still waters, restore their souls,
and help us to be gentle signs of your light and love.

In Christ our Lord. **Amen.**