

•Where there is suffering – Christ be healing.

Where there is hunger – Christ be bread.

Where there is loneliness and fear – Christ be friend.

Where there is hatred and war – Christ be peace amongst us.

Where there is bitterness – Christ be forgiveness.

Where there is judgement and legalism – Christ be our Gospel of life.

Where we are heavy with our love for others – Christ be peace to us and near to them.

Where we struggle ourselves – Christ walk beside us along the way.

Where we struggle to know how to pray, let us pray together.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Amen.

Music for Reflection

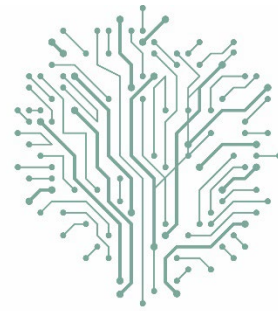
Choose a piece of music to listen to or sing.

Closing Blessing

Lord bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen.



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**Matthew 21: 23-32
Pentecost 18**

Welcome to all.

An opportunity to welcome people to worship.

Acknowledgement of 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.

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, or 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 among us, 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: Gather us in
© Marty Haugen

<https://open.spotify.com/track/04N7NS6XdvOkbLy3WThJuG?si=df5def4aba484326>

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

Matthew 21: 23-32

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' ²⁴ Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" ²⁶ But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹ He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus

said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering. Word Around the Bush.

<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/resources/the-word-around-the-bush/>

Questions for conversation

- So... what **do** you think about the parable of the two sons?
- How do you see the two sons and their different responses in terms of faith and belief?
- Where do you see yourself in the two sons?

A time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Simply be still and open to God.

Prayers for Others

Let us pray.

God of the day and night,
God of the summer and winter,
God of the drought and the rain,
We find ourselves in your presence.

Christ of friendship, of healing, of bread, wine and fish;
We find ourselves in your presence.

Spirit of the eternal presence of God; you blow amongst us.

To you we pray for your people.