

•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

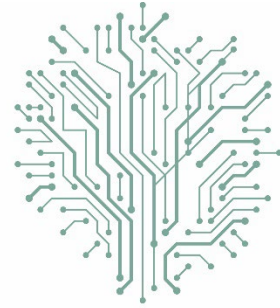
Choose a piece of music to listen to or sing.

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 11: 16-19, 25-30
Pentecost 6**

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

•Come Holy Spirit of God, blow amongst us, and our lives. Welcome us to this place, as we welcome you. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds, and be a gentle blowing, a quiet word, a fire burning, a healing presence, as each has need. In the presence of the faithful we will proclaim your name.

As we come together today, old or young, sure or uncertain, peaceful or troubled, hopeful or doubtful, we give thanks that you welcome us into your being and into your love.

Forgive us for our acts that mean that we are less than open to you.

Forgive us for the ways, open and hidden, where we do not welcome others.

Forgive us that we find it hard even to acknowledge within ourselves that we are loved and welcomed.

[silence]

Thankyou Jesus that you continue to offer love.
thankyou that you always welcome us.
thankyou that you already forgive. **Amen.**

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Quietly Quietly Be...

Acknowledgment: © John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/quietly-be>

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 11: 16-19, 25-30.

16 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

17 "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

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25 At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by

my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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

- What did you hear in today's Word?
- What do you feel about the wondering question in today's word, "I wonder where and in what ways I have not seen that there is anything greater, or deeper, than the Temples of my life, the church, the structures so easily clung to"?

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.