

•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

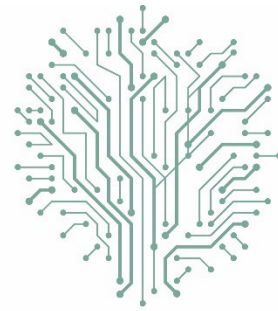
Choose a piece of music to listen to or sing.

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 15: 21-28
Pentecost 12**

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

• Holy God, you welcome us into your creation too vast and wonderful to understand. Jesus you welcomed and ate with those who were friends and those who didn't even like you. And now you still welcome us into your love and presence as we share with the Spirit.

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-self and into your love.

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

Forgive us for our 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](#)

We say together;
Thankyou Lord for enduring love.
Thankyou that you always welcome us.
Thankyou that you already forgive.

Let us hear that we are forgiven. Touch us once more with your peace and presence we pray.
Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Come one, come all.](#)
[@Malcom Gordon](#)
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/come-one-come-all-2>

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 15: 21-28 The Canaanite Woman's Faith

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' 24 He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' 26 He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' 27 She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' 28 Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 do you think about the suggestion in today's message that Jesus' initial response to the woman was grounded in Jesus as a man?
- What else did you hear in today's message, that was either affirming or unsettling?
- What else spoke to you in today's passage about the Canaanite woman?

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.

Into the life of Jesus came the Canaanite woman on that day, when the disciples urged him to send her away.

Into the life of Jesus came the hungry, the downtrodden, and those who were rejected.

Into the life of Jesus came those who were seeking, those in grief and those who needed to be heard.

Those who cried out. Those who came to touch the hem of his garment. Those who wept. Those who were counted as the least.

Into this world, you came Lord, and for this world we continue to pray.

[continued over](#)