

## 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.

•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 heard 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*

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Holy Spirit who hovered over the waters of creation  
and called forth the land,  
Jesus the Christ who redeems the world as one of us,  
God who dreams of the fulfilment of all creation;

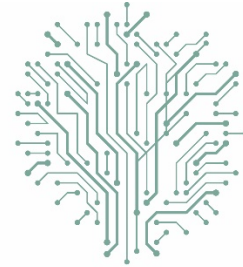
Send us to be carers of the land,  
Restores of relationships with people  
To delight in your good creation  
And to be sharers of the lands sustaining power for all

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©  
2019 Saltbush Community Ministers  
<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/>



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Psalm 104: 1-35.  
Land

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

With a mighty wind God called forth the land,  
Plains and hills, rocks and rivers rolling on as far as the  
eye can see  
**and we give thanks, for it is good.**

With a word God called forth vegetation, plants, trees  
and crops to flourish in all its diversity and to sustain  
life  
**and we give thanks, for it is good.**

With a word God calls forth animals and humans to  
delight in the land and to care for it  
**and we give thanks, for it is good.**

With a word, God call us to worship you and restore us  
to yourself and the creation for it is good.

**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: *The Beautiful Earth*  
John Coleman © 1992 February 6, 2019  
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/this-beautiful-earth>

### 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

Psalms 104: 1-35

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.  
You are clothed with honour and majesty,  
2 wrapped in light as with a garment.  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent,  
3 you set the beams of your[a] chambers on the waters,  
you make the clouds your chariot,  
you ride on the wings of the wind,  
4 you make the winds your messengers,  
fire and flame your[d] ministers.  
5 You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.  
6 You cover it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.  
7 At your rebuke they flee;  
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.  
8 They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys  
to the place that you appointed for them.  
9 You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.  
10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills,  
11 giving drink to every wild animal;  
the wild asses quench their thirst.  
12 By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;  
they sing among the branches.  
13 From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.  
14 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to use,[f]  
to bring forth food from the earth,  
15 and wine to gladden the human heart,  
oil to make the face shine,  
and bread to strengthen the human heart.  
16 The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
17 In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has its home in the fir trees.  
18 The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the conies (animals).  
19 You have made the moon to mark the seasons;  
the sun knows it's time for setting.  
20 You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.  
21 The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.  
22 When the sun rises, they withdraw  
and lie down in their dens.  
23 People go out to their work  
and to their labour until the evening.  
24 O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.  
26 There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.  
27 These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
28 when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.  
29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.  
30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.  
31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works—  
32 who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.  
33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the Lord.  
35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Praise the Lord!

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- I wonder what you have heard and thought from the Word today?
- I wonder what you heard in the Word for our church?
- What one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?

## Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

- You may like to say the prayer phrase “Mar-an-ath-a” (which means come Lord). Say this as four syllables. Do not try to think or imagine anything. If thoughts or distractions come simply return to saying the word.
- Or you may like “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.