



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 17: 1-10.  
Increase our Faith

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Compassionate God, from the margins you call lepers, Samaritan's, foreigners, widows, tax collectors, infants and children.

**Call us and increase our faith.**

Generous God, call us to faithful action as followers of Jesus that we might live as your disciples.

**And increase our faith.**

Faithful God, increase our faith that we might also forgive and move to transformative action.

**With faith to move mountains.**

**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Teresa

John Coleman ©2008 Revealing The Holy

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/teresa>

### 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

Luke 17: 1-10

Jesus said to his disciples, "Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! 2 It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble. 3 Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. 4 And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, 'I repent,' you must forgive." 5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 6 The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. 7 "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? 8 Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? 9 Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 10 So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'

## 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.

# 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

God who calls us to increase our faith,  
send us out to be disciples of Jesus who practice generosity, compassion and care that is as powerful as moving any mountain

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,

Son

and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**