

Closing Responses & Blessing

God of mercy and grace

You have called us to worship and we come with a humble heart seeking your mercy.

Send us now to our homes justified, not by anything we have done or offered but by your grace and mercy, compassion and generosity.

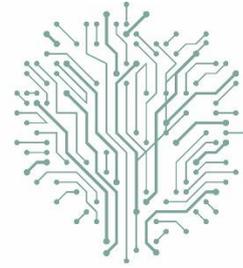
Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,

Son

and Holy Spirit.

Amen.



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 18: 9-14.
The Pharisee and the Tax
Collector

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Listening, watchful God,
help us to be honest.

Oh but we are - not at all like those
who can't be trusted with money,
the shifty and the feckless:
we're good stewards and faithful servants.

Help us to be honest.

We are nothing like the fat-cats, the greedy few,
the 'haves' who care nothing for the 'have-nots':
we're eloquent in the language of sharing.

Help us to be honest.

Oh but we are - not like those who like to look good
and deceive even themselves -
who talk the talk, but...

Help us to be honest:
that sometimes our getting it right
gets in your way.

Help us to be honest about our failings,
how far we still have to go

Help us to pray without words, with tears instead.

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<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/>

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And help us, honestly,
to love justice, to seek mercy,
and to walk humbly in your Way.

Amen.

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@ <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/Proper%2025%20C>

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Jason's Song](#)

John Coleman ©2008 *Slow Action of Love*

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/jasons-song>

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 18: 9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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