

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

Let us go walk the way of faith and discover the Christ waiting for us there with the water of life.

And may the wells of God's life be found beside the road,  
Christ Jesus meet us in unexpected places and the Spirit be with us on every hill and in every valley. 1.

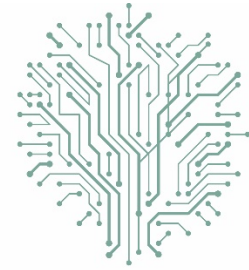
Bless us and the people we meet along the way.  
Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Dig a Well of Stillness (Davis/Woods)

Dig a well of stillness, into my being o love  
Through my thoughts and feelings  
Deepen and broaden within  
Prodding's, promptings, seeping in  
Through its sides – fill my heart  
Helping me, to let go – springs of living water

from "Dig a Well of Stillness" – Noel Davis  
Campfire of the Heart 1994 p40  
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Saltbush Community Ministers  
1. Dorothy McRae-McMahon: page 63 Liturgies  
for High Days



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 4: 5-42  
The Woman @ the Well

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

God's deep heart of life  
is like a well of infinite love.  
It flows towards all creation  
in living waters of grace.

**Praise be to God**

Christ sits beside our life,  
inviting us to open ourselves,  
body mind, heart and soul  
to the flowing newness of eternal life.

**Praise be to God.**

**Let us rejoice in hope. 1.**

**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Dig a Well of Stillness](#)

Acknowledgment: Davis/Woods Campfire of the Heart 1994  
p40. John Coleman © 2016 Shade Tree Place  
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/shade-tree-place>

### 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

John 4: 5-42

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." -----

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

## 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

Our Father,  
who is in us here on earth,  
holy is your name  
in the hungry who share their bread  
and their song.

Your Kingdom come,  
which is a generous land  
which flows with milk and honey.

Let us do your will,  
standing up when all are sitting down,  
and rising our voice when all are silent.

You are giving us our daily bread  
in the song of the bird  
and the miracle of the (wheat).

Forgive us  
for keeping silent in the face of injustice;  
and for burying our dreams  
for not sharing bread and wine,  
love and the land among us, now.

Don't let us fall into the temptation  
of shutting the door through fear;  
of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice;  
of taking up the same arms as the enemy.  
But deliver us from evil.

Give us the perseverance and solidarity  
to look for love,  
even if the path has not yet been trodden,  
even if we fall;  
so we shall have known your kingdom  
which is being built for ever and ever.

(Central American Lord's Prayer. Page 63 – Bread for Tomorrow: 2004. Ed. Janet Morley)