

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 out from this place and tell the people what God has done for us.

And may the miracles of God spread across the world in gifts of faith, endurance, shared love, healing and forgiveness, announcing the wonder of transforming possibilities for all people. <sup>1</sup>

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

You took away the scales from my eyes  
And now I can see all your world  
Now I can see, now I can see  
You took away the scales from my eyes

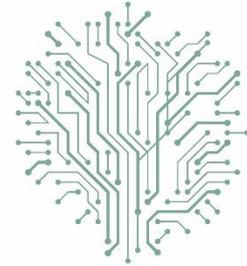
You cut away the chains around my heart  
And now I can love in your world  
Now I can love, now I can love  
You cut away the chains around my heart

Your Spirit is the water for my soul  
And now I can grow in your world  
Now I can grow, now I can grow  
Your spirit is the water for my soul

You took away the scales from my eyes  
And now I can see all your world  
Now I can see, now I can see  
You took away the scales from my eyes  
Now I can see, now I can see  
You took away the scales from my eyes

John Coleman © 2009. Pilgrims Together

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies © 2020  
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 9: 1-41  
Jesus and the Blind Man  
Lent 4

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

God is mystery and awe,  
God is Spirit and truth,  
God is grand Creator and Holy Christ.  
And one thing we know:  
in the moment of love,  
in the gift of healing,  
in the act of grace,  
in the holding of hope.  
**Our God is with us.  
Amen.** <sup>1</sup>

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Now I can See](#)

Acknowledgment: John Coleman © 2009. Pilgrims Together  
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/pilgrims-together>

### 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 9: 1-41

<sup>1</sup> As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

-----

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

## 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.