

Closing Responses & Blessing

As people of faith we have gathered, in times of transition and change.

In this liminal space Jesus the physical and spiritual one comes to us, praying for unity, love and witnessing to the world.

Send us risen Jesus beyond ourselves to love and serve the world, in the name of Christ.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

**Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Draw us from the shallows
Out into the deep
Our faith was weak and hollow
But its strengthened in our need
Though the waters overwhelm us
Though the shore be far from sight
From the storm you call forth stillness
From the darkness you call light

*Even the wind and the waves
Will listen to your voice
Oh speak your love and your grace
And calm the storm within*

Lead us from the certain
Into your mystery
With fearless love abounding
You ride the raging seas
Though the waters overwhelm us
Though the shore be far away
You walk on waves to find us
Your hands reach out to save

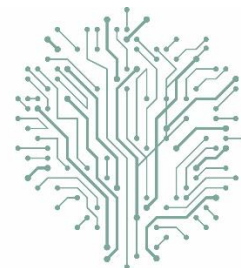
Chorus:

Far beyond the headland
Where fear and freedom meet
The drowning and the dying
You haul us to our feet
Though the waters overwhelm us
Though the shore is far behind
Drifting daughter's you will rescue
Shipwrecked son's you will find

*Chorus: * 2*

[Into the Deep](#). 2013 Malcolm Gordon

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©
2020 Saltbush Community Ministers



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 17: 1-11
Jesus Prayers for the Disciples

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Just when we think nothing new could be found in us, all things known, all things gone as far as they can go: You are born again within us,

Just as we think nothing can ever change, all things established, embedded in old powers: The transforming flow of your life is there among us.

Just when the deathly cycles drag us down into nothingness, all things despairing, all things destroying: You rise in vivid life beyond our weak survivals, God of new victories over death.

Thanks be to God

Amen.

McRae-McMahon. D. 2000. Page 115 Liturgies for the Journey of Life

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Into the Deep](#)

Acknowledgment: [Into the Deep](#). 2013 Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/album/into-the-deep>

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 17: 1-11

¹⁷ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

Go ahead of us, O God into the Galilees of our day, into the places where we try to make a difference, or the places where life has become commonplace and where new possibilities are forgotten.

Hear our prayer and;

Colour the fabric of our life with your beauty.

Go ahead of us, gracious Jesus, into the places where we fear to tread because we can see few signs of change, or violence's and oppressions which seem beyond your power, or our power, to change.

(Liturgies for High Days - 2006, page 104, Dorothy McRae-McMahon)

- 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