

Search Me O God

1. Search me O God
and know my anxious heart.
Behind me and before me,
you lay your hand upon me.
2. Where might I hide
to flee your tender touch?
No darkness or the ocean
hides me from your devotion.
Chorus
*You know my every need,
You know my thoughts, my joy, my crying,
God your wisdom ways
Surround me at my birth, my dying.*
3. Woven by you
deep in my mother's womb.
That moment of conception
you knew my life's direction.
4. Search me, O God
and purify my ways.
O teach me love surpassing,
guide me in all that's lasting.

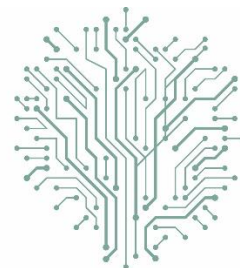
Chorus
Repeat Verse 1.
Leigh Newton

She Came to Jesus

SLANE 10.10.9.10 ("Be Thou My Vision")

1. She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.
2. Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.
3. God, you still bless those who seek you in
prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 15:21-28
The Canaanite Woman

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering
Centring words: God is neither shocked or disturbed
by our imperfections. God, who is already familiar
with our ways, has called us to this place.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Eternal Creator, you embrace our lives with your
grace and love. You call us to be in relationship
with through Christ and lead us in the power of
your Spirit. Continue to grow us in wisdom,
compassion and love, so that we may be a
reflection of you in our daily living.
Holy Presence our faith is found in you. In Christ,
Amen.

Music for Reflection

[Search me O God](#)

Leigh Newton (Used with permission)
<https://youtu.be/AZrloocavLU>

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

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 Presence, Creator God, dwell deeply within us that we would know your truth, your love, your hope, your reign in our lives.

That our own lives reflect you and your hopes; refreshing relationships, communities and your creation.

As you dwell within us Holy Presence may we know the sacred life you call us to, that we are made in your image and we acknowledge your image in all we meet.

At this time we bring you our prayers.

● 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

Song

She Came to Jesus. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
SLANE 10.10.9.10 ("Be Thou My Vision") Sing without accompaniment.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Benediction: Go in faith as images of the Living God! And may God, the eternal loving presence walk alongside you. God in Christ be your constant guide. The Holy Spirit nurture, encourage and lead you to truth.

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