

Bush Beatitude

There are narrow tracks of invitation that lead us to the virgin lands of God. We who dare we can take them. Tumble, slide and slip though we may. Making new tracks through unknown, learning the bush skills as we go. Hear the angels at your side say, "On you go."

"On you go, on you go, on you go, on you go."

The narrow track of invitation says travel light and be gentle as you go, share the swag with this hungry country and dig deep to forgive the ones that hurt you most and as you camp by the billabong let the campfire make you strong. Hear the angels at your side say, "On you go."

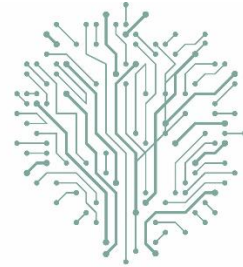
"On you go, on you go, on you go, on you go...."

And as you camp by the billabong let the campfire make you strong. Hear the angels at your side say, "On you go."

"On you go, on you go, on you go, on you go...."

And hear the angels at your side say, "On you go."

John Coleman from Revealing the Holy



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Genesis 3:14-19, 4:8-16 and
Matthew 12:38-40.
Land: Life Blood

Welcome

[An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering](#)

Suggested Greeting: Grace, hope and peace, in the name of God the Eternal presence, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Eternal Creator, Giver and Nurturer of life.

We celebrate your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the soil, the fields and the land. Help us to empathise with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the land, the flowers of the field and all the creatures of the countryside. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

(Season of Creation Liturgy: Vic/Tas UCA Synod)

Music for Reflection

[The Diamantina Drover: Hugh MacDonald](#)

Bandcamp: The Land by Hugh MacDonald

<https://hughmcdonaldmusic.bandcamp.com/track/the-diamantina-drover>

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

Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16.

Matthew 12:38-40 ³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

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

O God our creator, whose good earth is entrusted to our care and delight and tenderness, we pray:

For all who are in captivity to debt, whose lives are cramped by fear from which there is no turning except through abundant harvest.

Silence

May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy.

For all who depend on the earth
for their daily food and fuel,
whose forests are destroyed
for the profits of a few.

Silence

May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy.

For all who labour in poverty,
who are oppressed by unjust laws,
who are banned for speaking the truth,
who long for a harvest of justice.

Silence

May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy.

For all who are in captivity
to greed and waste and boredom,
whose harvest joy is choked
with things they do not need.

Silence

May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy.

Turn us again from our captivity
and restore our vision,
that our mouth may be filled with laughter
and our tongue with singing.

Janet Morley – Till All Creation Sings, 1989

Song:

Bush Beatitude: John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/bush-beatitudes>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Benediction:

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you.
Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

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