

•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 hear 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*

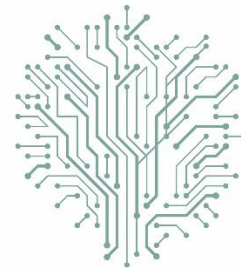
## Closing Responses & Blessing

Go out into the world in peace,  
To love and serve the Lord.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 21: 33-46  
Parable of the Wicked Tenants

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Gather your people Lord.  
Gather us as community though we are many.  
Gather us around the table, the bread and wine,  
thought we sit in different places.  
Gather us into you as you gather with us now.

And as we gather Lord, let us be a thankful people.  
Thankful for those around us.  
For freedom and beauty.  
For things small and great.  
Thankful for times both of rest and struggle.  
Thankful for bread to feed us body and soul and  
water and wine to quench our thirst as the water  
of life.

Thankful for your ever present Spirit.

**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [One Bread One Body](#)

John Michael Talbot

<https://open.spotify.com/track/375riqLhmQeGkknGixcS23?si=zAnrXeVSnW18vCCsgJi9w>

## 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

**Matthew 21: 33-46.**

<sup>33</sup>“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes?’

<sup>43</sup> Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

<sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

## The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.

## Questions for conversation

- Is this a parable of invitation and if so what does that invitation look like?
- 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 God,  
where there is hope, you are there.  
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.  
Where there is the struggle for peace, you are there.  
Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.  
Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.  
Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In you is such longing for your creation, and for humanity, and we thank you for that presence of you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and saving.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.