

Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Though you maybe have no money, though you  
maybe feel unworthy  
In your strength or in your weakness you are  
welcome, come

Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
See, you are an honoured guest, from constant  
serving you may rest  
So sit you down, be fed & blessed for you are  
welcome, come

Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Woman, wise one, mother, maiden, see your  
plate with food is laden  
And your place is set and waiting, you are  
welcome, come

Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Worker, father, little boy, old man or youth  
without employ  
Come rest your worry, here is joy and you are  
welcome, come.

Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Whether you've been lost or faithful, whether  
you've been wise or wasteful  
Here's a place of rest and grace and you are  
welcome, come

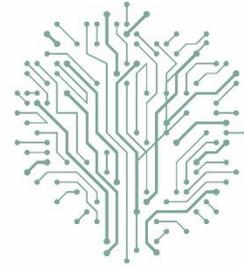
Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Here is one who runs to met you loving arms  
stretched out to greet you  
Do not let your fear defeat you, you are welcome,  
come

Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Willing hands have made this bread with salt and  
yeast and labour shared  
Let all the hungry ones be fed; it's time for  
feasting, come

Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
Abundant wine, enough for all; our generous  
loving host has called  
The cup of blessing now is poured for sweet  
communion, come

Come to the banquet there's a place for you  
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SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 22: 1-14  
The Wedding Banquet

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

God of feasting and celebration, invite us from the  
highways and bye ways to your wedding banquet of  
life.

Feed us with love so that together with all your  
people we might celebrate the coming of the kingdom

Forgive our lack of willingness to celebrate and  
recognise you in the face of the other.

Come, for all is ready to celebrate and dance for you  
have invited us to come.

**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Come to the Banquet](#)

Acknowledgment: *All together Whatever/ Seasons of the Spirit*

Words and music: Fay White. Copyright © Fay White,

Web link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNJSSNqH\\_5E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNJSSNqH_5E)

### 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 22: 1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”

## 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 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.

- 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

Lord of the wedding banquet you have invited us to celebrate and dance at the celebration of life.

Send us now to live as faithful disciples spreading your good news of love and relationship to all who will listen.

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

**Amen.**