

## Closing Responses & Blessing

This is my commandment that you love one another.

And I appoint you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last shaped by the love of God and each other.

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

**Amen**

An ancient love,  
a scared loss, a world to find to save whatever cost.  
For all you are and yet might be.  
It's all I seek and long to see set free.

Like watchmen kept on a boat,  
I've set a watch for you.  
For in the thrill  
and in the chase.  
In the parting and in the sweet embrace.  
I sort to give, to lay me down.  
I am richer now than when you first were found.

Like watchmen kept on a boat.  
I've set a watch for you.

My long lost love,  
I've found you now, you're home at last,  
My long lost love, you draw me out,  
you hold my heart.  
How did I ever see before this light found me in you?  
I'll give my days to find colours hidden inside of you.

My long lost love.  
To save a kiss, but no farewell.  
No more parting come heaven or come hell.  
You are mine, a treasure found.  
Yet the finding will last while years abound.

Like watchmen kept on a boat.  
I've set a watch for you.  
My long lost love,  
I've found you now, you're home at last.  
My long lost love you draw me out,  
you hold my heart.

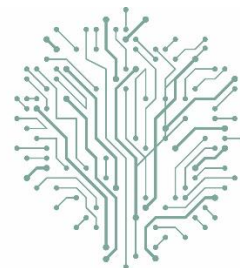
My long lost love,  
I've found you now you're home at last,  
My long lost love you draw me out,  
you hold my heart.

How did I ever see before this light found me in you?  
I'll give my days to find colours hidden inside of you.

My long lost love.  
In every field a treasure lies.  
I take my time, I will see what I can find.  
My long lost love.

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Saltbush Community Ministers  
1 Janet Nelson: 2002. Let Us pray: Page 160  
Sixth Sunday of Easter. Year B



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 15: 9-17  
Easter 6

### Welcome

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

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

As the witness to the resurrection spreads the followers of Jesus are reminded of the love of God.

The joyful news is this that as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

Those who live in the love of Jesus bear fruits of loving one another.

Gather us,  
O God that we might experience this love and respond in following your way.

**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

[Suggested song: Long lost love](#)

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<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/long-lost-love>

### 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 15: 9-17

### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## 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

Loving and generous God, your love reaches out to all your children: hear our prayers for your world and all its people.

We pray for leaders of nations, for all in positions of authority and responsibility;

For the hungry, the homeless and the dispossessed;

for victims of hatred, violence or injustice.

Teach us how to love each other as you love us, without distinction of race or colour.

Ever-loving God, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

You came among us, born into a human family: hear our prayers for the people of this community, for our families, our friends and for ourselves.

We pray for civic leaders and for all who advance the welfare of this community:

for all relationships that are bitter, violent or destructive,

for the unemployed and all who are victims of economic greed.

Teach us how to love each other as you love us, welcoming both friend and stranger.

Ever-loving God, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

You lived among us, sharing with us the griefs and pains: hear our prayers for the sick and all who suffer. We pray for all who spend their lives bringing care and comfort to others;

for those in sadness, anxiety, despair or pain;

for all who are forgotten, unheard, unvalued, unloved.

Teach us how to love each other as you love us, caring for both the vulnerable and strong.

Ever-loving God, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

You laid down your life for those you loved: we remember your friends or every place and age.

We remember those who have given their lives that others may live, the saints and martyrs and all your faithful people.

Teach us how to love each other as you love us, that following your commandments, we may be your friends and abide for ever in your love.

Ever-loving God, in your mercy

**hear our prayer. 1.**

**Amen.**