

Closing Responses & Blessing

The blessing of God be upon each of us to draw us into faith.

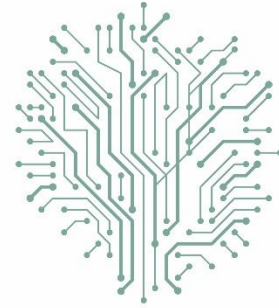
The blessing of Christ be upon each of us to challenge and call us along the way.

The blessing of Spirit be upon each of us to send us out into our community and wider world.

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

Psalm 23
Easter 4

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

The Lord leads me beside still waters and restores my soul. [Psalm 23]

Draw us in to your presence Lord and open to us once more the depth of your being.

Draw us in to your steadfast love, so that we may again know the deeper mystery of life and be nourished in our faith.

Draw us in to your way, so that we may know through gentle paths or darkest valleys your goodness and mercy.

Draw us in Lord, as we gather here. Dwell amongst your people across the lands and call us out into faith and life. We pray. Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: Psalm 23

Alexon Compilation Album, released July 25, 2016,
<https://alexonmusic.bandcamp.com/track/psalm-23-3>

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

Psalm 23.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or
another leader within your gathering.
<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/the-word-around-the-bush/>

Questions for conversation

- Where in Psalm 23 do you find yourself? How is this your song?
- Are we satisfied as the 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 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

Amen.