

We pray for all who suffer:
for those who do not know the love of family
or friends;
for the sick and the dying and all who mourn.
When hearts are broken and spirits crushed;
when bodies are crippled or racked with pain,
touch us again with your love, and restore us to life.
Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God who calls us mothers and brothers and
sisters, hear our prayers for your world and for
ourselves.
Show us the way we should live, and restore us to life.
Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. 2.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Mothers, Brothers, Sisters, as you go from this place:
Extend grace to all,
be faithful to Christ,
and do not loose hope.

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

Open our Eyes - Zoe Henderson and Katie Lee

Open our eyes Lord
Let us see
You are our hope Lord
You have set us free
These are the words
Passed down from your lips
We are joining the songs that you sing
Help us to hear
The truth that you speak
May it be in the words that we bring
Spirit guide us
Our hearts are open
Jesus teach us
In you we're growing

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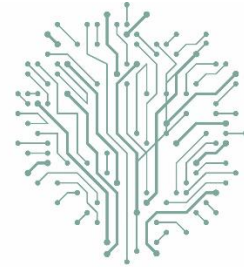
Saltbush Community Ministers

1 The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2021.

Page 91

2 Janet Nelson: 2002. Let Us pray: Page 186

Pentecost 2. Year B. Adapted.



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Mark 3: 20-35
Pentecost 2

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

Lord, open our lips
and our mouths shall praise you.

Lord open our ears
and our ears will hear your voice

Lord, open our hands
and our hearts will serve you.

Amen. 1.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Open our Eyes](#)

from [Songs for the Road](#), released July 1, 2014

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/open-our-eyes-zoe-henderson-and-katie-lee>

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

Mark 3: 20-35

(Then he went home ;) ²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸ “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — ³⁰ for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

The True Kindred of Jesus

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters^a are outside, asking for you.” ³³ And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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?
- I wonder what actions you and your Christian Community might take that continues to live into the interests of God in your local area?

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 God, you know our needs and desires before we ask and all our days are in your hands: hear our prayers we bring to you.

We pray for the world:

for those who suffer because of war or civil strife;

for those who are imprisoned, displaced or dispossessed.

When we are unmoved by the plight of others, when our greed keeps the hungry poor, shake us from our compliancy and restore us to life. Loving God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for your church:

for your ministers and prophets and all who lead your people;

for all who worship and minister in this place.

When we are legalistic and lacking in love, when we are slow to recognise your voice or understand your word, call us again by name, and restore us to life.

Loving God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our community:

for those who have nowhere to live and little to eat;

for those without work or means of support.

When we are judgemental and mean-minded, when we are slow to compassion and swift to condemn,

unlock our hearts, and restore us to life.

Loving God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.