

Holy Spirit, storm and breath of love;
bridge-builder, eye-opener,
waker of the oppressed,
unseen and unexpected,
untameable energy of life -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for other people we know and are
close to ...

Silence

Holy Trinity, forever one,
whose nature is community;
source of all sharing,
in whom we love, and meet, and know our
neighbour:
life in all its fullness, making all things new:
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for our church, our wider
community and for ourselves ...

Silence

Hear all these our prayers who sends us out
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

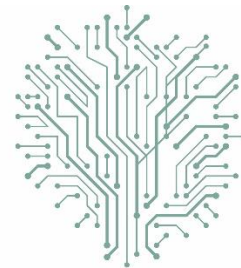
Adapted from - Brian Wren, Christian Aid Prayers, 1980.
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/church-seasons.aspx>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go our into the world,
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

Mark 4: 26-34
Pentecost 3 – Seed Parables

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

As we gather here today, let us simply draw to
mind the seeds we have planted, the crops sown,
the plants nurtured, watered, pruned, harvested.

And so we open ourselves to images of the way of
the Kingdom of God.

Let's pray.

From the corners of our different lives we come,
And let us Lord rest a while here with you,
That we might once more hear your word,
And be encouraged in our discipleship.

Lord open our ears.
Let us see you in others.
Let us be renewed in faith,
And be to your world a people of God.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: In you we live...

Acknowledgment: © 2020 Songs for the Road

Malcom Gordon & Keren Oey

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/in-you-we-live-keren-oey>

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 4: 26-34.

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

The Use of Parables

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- How do you respond to the question by Jesus... "with what shall we compare the Kingdom of God"?
- What did you hear in today's word?
- What does it mean that he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it?

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

Living Love,
beginning and end,
giver of food and drink,
clothing and warmth,
love and hope:
life in all its goodness -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for your creation ...

Silence

Jesus, wisdom and word;
lover of outcasts,
friend of the poor;
one of us yet one with God;
crucified and risen:
life in the midst of death -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for others we have heard about
throughout our world ...

Silence