

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

We pray in community to God.

For planet earth – for its wounding and healing and for those who continue to cry out for action and change in human behaviour. [silence]

For humanity – for our hope and spirit, amongst our struggle and pain and for all who work towards healing, justice and compassion. [silence]

For people we are close to – in joy and sorrow and for your presence along the paths of their lives. [silence]

For sky and mountain – all that we look up to in wonder and awe and for each of us nurtured in God’s presence in faith.

Eternal God, in you we live and move and have our being. Your people, your creation, the being of life itself, is entwined and found in you.

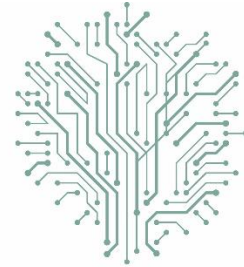
Amen.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Creator God, create in us compassion towards others and towards your creation.

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 8: 1-10, 27-38.
Humanity Sunday - Pentecost 16

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Together as community we ponder in these weeks - planet earth, humanity, sky and mountain.

Eternal God, in you we live and move and have our being. Your people, your creation, the being of life itself, is entwined and found in you.

We give thanks for planet earth – vast and yet small, strong and yet fragile.

We give thanks for humanity – love and laughter, creativity and knowledge.

We give thanks for sky – eternal and changing; cloud, stars, moon and sun.

We give thanks for mountain – low and high, ancient calling as sacred place.

We acknowledge our need for forgiveness. For within your creation we see ourselves as gods. Trampled the sacred. Consumed that which is not ours to consume. Hurt our brothers and sisters – nations and peoples. And from sea to land, river to mountain, earth to sky we have left our scarring.

We need forgiveness. We need change. We need life. [silence]

Eternal God, in your great compassion forgive us and stir our hearts and minds towards healing – healing for creation, healing amongst humanity, healing in our relationship with you.

To us, and to our world God in Christ speaks: Go, your sings are forgiven.

We give thanks to God.

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Creator

John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/creator>

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 8: 1-10, 27-38.

8 In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, 2 "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way—and some of them have come from a great distance." 4 His disciples replied, "How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?" 5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven." 6 Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. 7 They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. 8 They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. 9

Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. 10 And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What is compassion?
- What have you heard in the Word today for yourself or the church?
- What one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?