

And where we need strength of faith,  
where doubt looms stronger than belief,  
when overwhelmed life seems to be,  
give us such strength,  
by day and by night,  
to lean on your presence.

[silence]

Oh Lord hear our prayer. We pray together.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are  
yours  
now and for ever.

Amen.

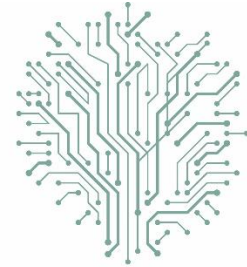
## Closing Responses & Blessing

Let us rise,  
to be a people of faith,  
sharers of hope  
and nurturers of love.

May God's blessing be upon us.

**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

Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
Job – Suffering - Faith

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

We pray.

In a world full of both the hopeful and the  
disappointed.  
The joy and the sorrow.  
The questions with no answers.  
In a world where both the living and the dying sit  
side by side.  
The beauty and the broken.  
The wonder and the chaos.

In this world, we come, drawing on our faith in  
your abiding ways and presence, O God.

As we come, draw near to us once more, that even  
in the mystery, we will know your name.

**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: In you we live.

©Karen Oer

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

## 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

**Job 1: 1, 2: 1-10**

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. 2 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." 3 The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." 4 Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. 5 But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." 6 The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." 10 But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- How difficult does suffering make it to continue to be faithful in a God of love?
- I wonder what you have heard and thought from the Word today?
- Is reading the whole book of Job an invitation you might take up?

## 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

As Christ sat beside the most and the least, touched the leper and invited the outcast so we know you draw near O God.

As Christ fed the hungry and healed the wounded, ate with the despised and rebuked the acceptable, so we know you draw near O God.

And so we bring our prayers for our world.

For those we have heard about, far or near to us, who are on our minds at this time we pray in silence.

[silence]

For those whose needs are great and who touch our lives we pray in silence.

[silence]

For our own lives — where there is sadness, hurt, suffering and pain, we pray in silence

[silence]