

Closing Responses & Blessing

Even as the signs of the times indicate the end is near
and much in the world may trouble's us.
Go to live as disciples of the Son of Man who comes to
reveal God's community drawn near.

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

The Colossian Hymn

We look to Jesus, seeing God who can't be seen.
We look to Jesus, seeing life as it should be.
We look to Jesus, in whom everything began.
For in this Jesus, we will find a place to stand.

Life began in you.
Lord of all you hold us true.
All the world is home in your hands.
Life is found in you.
All that's broken will be new.
Heaven's heart lies open to us now.

We look to Jesus, seeing God as purest grace.
We look to Jesus, where we find our truest place.
We look to Jesus, leading us beyond the grave.
For in this Jesus, all creation can be saved.

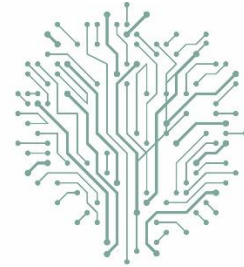
Life began in you.
Lord of all you hold us true.
All the world is home in your hands.
Life is found in you.
All that's broken will be new.
Heaven's heart lies open to us now.

You are reconciling making peace through your blood.
You're the new beginning for this world.
Heaven and earth are brimming with the life that you bring.
You're the morning star that lights the way.

Life began in you.
Lord of all you hold us true.
All the world is home in your hands.
Life is found in you.
All that's broken will be new.
Heaven's heart lies open to us now. *2

Songs for the Saints, © 2016 Music & Lyrics: Malcolm Gordon

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Saltbush Community Ministers
1 Wild Goose: Big Book of Liturgies 2018
Page 240. Alison Swinfen



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

A Holy Communion video led liturgy is available at
<https://vimeo.com/572335335>

Mark 13: 1 – 8
Pentecost 25

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

In the midst of troubling times;
be assured of the nearness of the kingdom of
God.
With signs of poverty, disease and exclusion;
be assured of the good news of Jesus.
Stories of the destruction of temples, social structures
and false prophets abound;
be assured that God is with us.
From the lesson of the fig tree and the signs of the
times, let the faithful be watchful for the coming of
the Son of Man is at hand.
For even in the most troubled times, in Jesus we find a
place to stand.
Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [The Colossian Hymn](#)
Songs for the Saints, © 2016 Music & Lyrics: Malcolm Gordon
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/the-colossian-hymn>

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 13: 1 – 8

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!”² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?”⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Where is God already active in the world where we can join in?
- What tasks can we be doing to be ready for the coming kingdom?
- How might you practice your faith muscles to be build up in faith and love?

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

Jesus who invites us to read the troubling signs of the times, yet you call us to imagine the nearness of God’s Community come in reality.

Hear our prayer this day; that your kingdom may come, your will be done.

For you are the God of the tipping point,
do not lead us into naivety.

Do not countenance a lazy complacency.

Do not nurture in us a false optimism, or self-congratulation.

For the weapons are proliferating; and the nuclear abomination remains;

and children live in deepening poverty;

the homeless and destitute are many;

and so many have turned away from your ways and curse your name.

The leaders say no to refugees and asylum seekers:

“You are not welcome here.”

“Let them drown”,

and governments work against the offer of refuge, sanctuary and a home.

Injustice is manufactured, purchased,

installed at the check points, and feared.

And the world’s profiteer’s rule.

Silence:

But take this as a humble sign

that we defy those who say,

“There is no alternative”.

Following instead your command to be wise as

serpents and innocent as doves,

still holding to your strange hope;

and committing anew to the vulnerable agony of sharing in your compassion. 1.

God of the tipping point shake us out of our

complacency, that reading the signs of the times we might faithfully work and live into your community of love and inclusion.

Amen.

Suggested song: [Not the End](#)

MARK: Illustrated Gospel Project, by [Malcolm Gordon](#) © 2017
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/not-the-end-mark-13-7>