

Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or
the depths of the seas, you are there.

Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In you is such longing for your creation, and for
humanity, and we thank you for that presence of
you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and
saving.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we
bring our prayers for your creation and for the
people of this world.

•O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:
[Silence for personal prayer or invite others to
open prayer in between each]

Your creation ...
Silence

For others we have heard about throughout our
world ...
Silence

For other people we know and are close to ...
Silence

For our church and our wider community ...
Silence

For ourselves ...
Silence

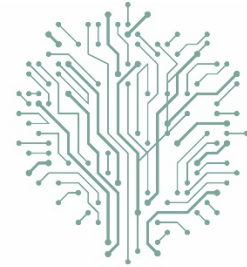
Closing Responses & Blessing

Let us rise to love.
Let us leave in peace.
Let us listen with wisdom above law.
Let us offer freedom above rule.
Let us be a people of life, within and around.

**We leave and go out into the world as God's
people.**

**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

Luke 4: 14 - 21
Epiphany 3

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Holy God, you welcome us into your creation too
vast and wonderful to understand.
Jesus you welcomed and ate with those who were
friends and those who didn't even like you.
And now you still welcome us into your love and
presence as we share with the Spirit.

As we come together today, old or young, sure or
uncertain, peaceful or troubled, hopeful or
doubtful, we give thanks that you welcome us into
your-self and into your love.

Forgive us for our acts that mean that we are less
than open to you.

Forgive us for the ways open and hidden where
we do not welcome others.

Forgive us that we find it hard even to
acknowledge within ourselves that we are loved
and welcomed. [a short silence]

We say together;

**Thankyou Jesus that you continue to offer love.
thankyou that you always welcome us.
thankyou that you already forgive.**

Let us hear that we are forgiven. Touch us once
more with your peace and presence we pray.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Slow Action of Love

@John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/slow-action-of-love>

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

Luke 4: 14-21.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- How do you respond to the passage that Jesus read out from the scriptures?
- How does that passage speak to you and to your life?
- I wonder what you heard in the Word for our church?
- What one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?

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

Eternal God,
where there is hope, you are there.

Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.

Where there is the struggle for peace,
you are there.

Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered,
where there is sight for the blind,
and the oppressed go free, you are there.