

We pray for all in need, for your people who are lonely, neglected, frightened or sad, for the bereaved, the sick and for all without hope.

When we leave the weak and the vulnerable to care for themselves, when we shut away the disabled and the elderly in institutions, when we fail to notice the needs of others or turn away from those in distress, Disturb our minds and turn our hearts to you, that we may bring comfort, compassion and care to the needy Righteous God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

When we ignore the challenge of your teaching, Disturb our minds and turn our hearts to you, that with Christ we may live into your way here and now, disturbing the comfortable and comforting the disturbed.

Righteous God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer. 1.**

**Amen.**

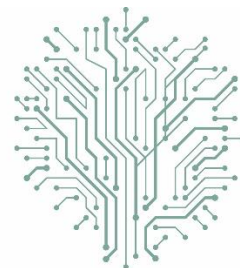
## Closing Responses & Blessing

Go to live as those blessed to be poor, hungry and sad, for such is the way of Jesus come proclaiming release to captives, sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free.

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

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies © 2022  
Saltbush Community Ministers

1 Adapted from: Janet Nelson: 2002. Let Us pray: Page 72 Epiphany 6. Year C



# 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>

Luke 6: 17 – 26  
Epiphany 6

## Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

## Responses & Gathering Prayer

Blessed are you who are poor;  
Blessed are you who are hungry;  
Blessed are you who weep;

For Jesus comes healing and with power to turn our expectations of a blessed life upside down.

Come let us worship this strange God who call us to live our lives in contrast to the world.

**Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [The Road Less Travelled](#)

© John Coleman [Revealing The Holy](#), 2008

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/the-road-less-travelled-2>

## 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 6: 17 – 26

### Blessings and Woes

<sup>17</sup> He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup> who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, <sup>19</sup> and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

<sup>20</sup> Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now,  
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you  
and reject your name as evil,  
because of the Son of Man.

<sup>23</sup> “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have already received your comfort.

<sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are well fed now,  
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,  
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- Where is God already active in your neighbourhood where you can join in?
- What does it mean to live as those who are blessed to be poor, hungry and sad?
- How can your Christian community listen deeply for God’s emerging activity and respond to those who live in our neighbourhood’s who are poor, hungry and sad?

## 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

Righteous and disturbing God,

We pray for your world, for your people who are hungry, poor and oppressed.

When the earth’s resources are plundered by the rich, when improvised countries are trapped in poverty and debt, when we take from those who have little and give to those who have much, Disturb our minds and turn our hearts to you, that we may hear the cries of dispossessed and learn to share our abundance.

Righteous God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for Australia, for your people who are outcast, homeless or unemployed.

When economic gain is more important than human dignity, when ancient injustices are not addressed, when people are reviled through prejudice and fear, Disturb our minds and turn our hearts to you, that we may create a society where all are recognised and valued and our diversity is celebrated.

Righteous God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church, for your followers who are persecuted or who live in danger

When we preach a gospel that does not challenge or unsettle, when pomp and possessions mask our dependence on you, when we stray from your path or lead others from your ways,

Disturb our minds and turn our hearts to you, that we may be a community of faith which proclaims your reign of justice and peace.

Righteous God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**