

## Closing Responses & Blessing

The world is often found by passing through the wilderness.

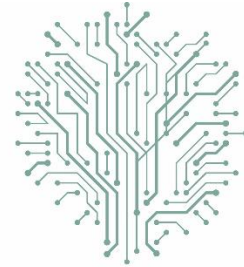
Go in courage because Christ has walked that way before us. 1.

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

### Dig a Well of Stillness (Davis/Woods)

Dig a well of stillness, into my being o love  
Through my thoughts and feelings  
Deepen and broaden within  
Proddings, promptings, seeping in  
Through its sides – fill my heart  
Helping me, to let go – springs of living water

*from "Dig a Well of Stillness" – Noel Davis  
Campfire of the Heart 1994 p40*



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 4: 1 – 13  
Lent 1

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Wonder of wonders!  
God is to be found within our wildernesses,  
deep in the centre our harshest places  
and placing a caring hand under all our questions.

Be known to us here, O God, whether we are on firm  
ground or the treacherous sands of indecision.  
Come, gracious Jesus, come and walk with us. 1.  
**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Dig a Well of Stillness](#)  
© John Coleman [Shade Tree Place](#), 2016  
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/dig-a-well-of-stillness>

### 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.

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies © 2022  
Saltbush Community Ministers  
1 Adapted from: Dorothy McRae-  
McMahon: 2006. Liturgies for High  
Days: Page 52 Lent 1.

## The Word around the Bush

Luke 4: 1 – 13

### The Temptation of Jesus

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,<sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.<sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”<sup>5</sup> Then the devil<sup>[a]</sup> led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.<sup>6</sup> And the devil<sup>[b]</sup> said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.<sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”<sup>9</sup> Then the devil<sup>[c]</sup> took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,<sup>10</sup> for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’<sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- Who and what do we trust in this time and space?
- How will we go about living into the messianic vision for the world?
- What posture will we adopt in this time as individuals and as a Christian community?

## 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

Visit us now in the centre of the wilderness of our life, O Christ.

Hold firm our frail holding truth,  
stand tall when we would lower our life’s aspirations,  
speak boldly into our false assumptions  
and look us in the eye when we fool ourselves  
by pretending to be doing your will.

Silence:

Make transparent the wiles of those who would tempt us, calling to us in voices of sweetness and reason while attempting to capture our very souls.

Silence:

Be with all those today who need your company in the wilderness of their lives.

Especially we remember those people and situations:  
*The People Pray;*

Remind us, O Christ, of your true way.  
Go with us along the path of humility,  
in the spreading of good and justice and compassion  
into the world, in offering love which is not founded  
on our own gain and in finding peace which is beyond  
describing.

This we pray in trembling faith. 1.  
Amen.

Suggested song: [Our Father in Heaven](#)

© Malcom Gordon [A Pocketful of Smooth Stones](#), 2020  
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/our-father-in-heaven-w-forest>