

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Go into the world knowing the God of Creation, Hope and Encouragement is with you.

Go knowing it is the desire of God for you to be part of the expression of God's life, here, now and always.

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

May the Feet of God

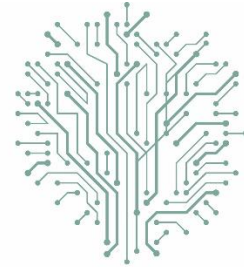
May the feet of God walk with you and his hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you and his breath give you life.

May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home.

Robin Mann and Dorothy Mann



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 3:1-17  
Trinity

### Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God the Creator in Christ as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit and share our lives with others.

### Lighting of Christ Candle

God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ the light of the world. May the light shine for the hope of the world.  
(light the candle)

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Ever-present Creator,

You who have brought all things into being and called them good and invited us to create with you.

**May we be willing creators with you.**

Jesus Christ, you have revealed to us the loving heart of God, the kingdom of God in our present and the call share in the movement of God.

**May we follow you and know we belong.**

Holy Spirit, you continue to enliven, encourage and nourish our lives, reminding us that we are born from above.

**May we live as people aware of the ever-present God. Creator, Redeemer and Spirit of God.**

### Song:

[Pilgrims Together](https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/pilgrims-together)

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/pilgrims-together>

### 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

**John 3:1-17.** <sup>3</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.<sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- I wonder what you have heard and thought from the Word today?
- 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

Merciful Creator, as you nurture our lives and grow us in your ways of wisdom and understanding through your Spirit and in the person of Jesus Christ, may we be always open to your leading and receptive of your grace. May we know you encourage, love and invite us to participate in your kingdom.

(pause)

For those who are powerless and weighed down by the injustices they experience each day as they are judged by race, class and religion. **May we be witnesses of your justice.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we seek the healing of creation, that you have named good.**

(pause)

We know you are with those who are experiencing difficult days in our communities, may we be free to share our lives with them also. **May we know that we are your hands and your feet.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

## Song for Reflection:

[May the feet of God walk with you.](#) Robyn Mann and Dorothy Mann  
<https://youtu.be/WfOFIWxGaP8>