

Christ be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. (Refrain)

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are feed. (Refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (Refrain)

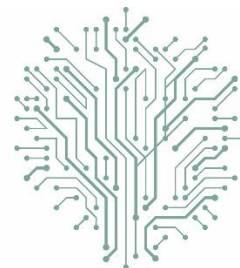
Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. (Refrain)

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23

What to Let Go, to Keep and Embrace

Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we 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.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Gracious Eternal Creator,
We come to praise and give you thanks!
For you have shown us love and acceptance in Jesus,
your Spirit moves and empowers us.
And we ask you now speak into our lives:

What do we let go?

What do we keep?

What do we embrace?

Help us to serve all your creation this and every day.
Amen.

Song:

Christ be Our Light by Bernadette Farrell (Sung: PAX Community)

<https://paxcommunity.bandcamp.com/track/christ-be-our-light>

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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 7:1-23

7Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

Ever present God, as you show your love for us in relationship with you. We pray that we continue to look for your love, to hear your voice, to feel your touch and to have the Spirit of Life breath upon us your life-giving grace.

(pause)

For those for whom our past actions have caused hurt and harm because we thought our traditions were right. **Forgive us O God, may we let go of those ways that have caused others alienation and pain.**

(pause)

For the First Peoples of this land, may we work together for a deeper understanding, may we listen and may we act for justice. **May we keep those traditions of love and acceptance.**

(pause)

For all of creation, that you have gifted us and called us to serve and protect. **May we embrace the gifts you have given and live out your graciousness.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers. May we feel the breath of the Spirit upon us.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

Song for Reflection:

[Start from Where You Are](https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/40-start-from-where-you-are) by Peter Kearney

<https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/40-start-from-where-you-are>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, journey with the One who walks with you and calls you to a deeper truth.

The One who leads you to places of love, hope and peace.

The One who empowers, nurtures and transforms.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**