

Hey Stranger

Am I so invisible
That my tears can't catch your eye?
Am I so unlovable
No one out there hears my cry

I have heard the whispering of hope calling
That I might find a hand to hold
And restore me

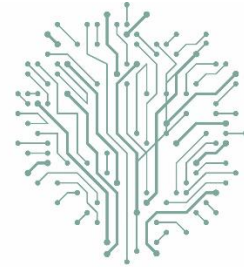
Hey stranger, hey neighbour
You don't need wings to be my angel
Just hear me, just see me
Let me know that I am truly worthy

Would you greet and welcome me
If you found me at your door
Would you pray that I'll be free
And find a life that's so much more

I have heard the whispering of hope calling
That I might find a hand to hold
And restore me

Hey stranger, hey neighbour
You don't need wings to be my angel
Just hear me, just see me
Let me know that I am truly worthy
credits

Music and lyrics by Malcolm Gordon



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Mark 12:28-34
Love god, Love Neighbour

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

Living, Loving Creator we give you thanks and praise for Jesus, the one who shows us love that we may love ourselves and love others.

Jesus, you command us to be in relationship with you and with our neighbour.

To know the depth of the love of God in our lives, to love God with all we have.

Your life, love and sacrifice show us the way of love;
may we always journey with you in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ, Amen.

Song

[Hey Stranger](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/hey-stranger-radio-edit) by Malcolm Gordon
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/hey-stranger-radio-edit>

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 12:28-34

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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 breathe upon us your life-giving grace. Help us to love: to love you, to love ourselves as we love our neighbour.

(pause)

For those who are shut out and shunned by the injustices they experience each day as they are judged by gender, race, class and religion. **May we show our neighbour love.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we show our neighbour love.**

(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 show our neighbour love.**

(pause)

In this time of silence, we bring you our prayers. May we feel your love and acceptance to the depth of our being.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

Song for Reflection:

[O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus](https://nathandrake.bandcamp.com/track/o-the-deep-deep-love-of-jesus)

<https://nathandrake.bandcamp.com/track/o-the-deep-deep-love-of-jesus>

Closing Responses & Blessing

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

Go with open hearts and minds, knowing the Spirit of God is with you, the breath of God upon you.

And may you be voices of wisdom, your actions standing for justice, peace, grace and welcome.

Loving God and loving neighbour as self.

In the name of Christ.

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