

In you is such longing for your creation, and for humanity, and we thank you for that presence of you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and saving.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.

•O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:
[Silence for personal prayer or invite others to open prayer in between each]

Your creation ...
Silence

For others we have heard about throughout our world ...
Silence

For other people we know and are close to ...
Silence

For our church and our wider community ...
Silence

For ourselves ...
Silence

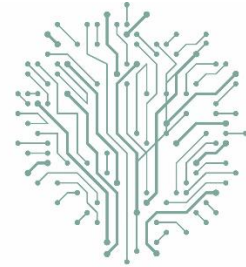
O God, in your presence, these are our prayers.

Amen.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Love and Life.
God and Spirit.
The way and word of Christ.
Hope and patience.
Grace and Compassion.
The eternal and the present One.
We gather into our ourselves as God gathers into us.

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



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 6: 27-38.
Epiphany 7 – Life Giving Sayings!

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Let us come with ears to listen.
Let us hear ancient words speak of life.
Let us be a people at the feet of Christ.
Let us be a people of faith. Let us pray.

We give thanks in this place, with those who gather around us, for all good things in life.

[If you wish people may name their words of thanks]

We give thanks eternal God for your abiding ways down throughout the ages and into our very lives in these days and times.

We confess that we have not loved you or our neighbour in ways that could have been life giving and faithful. In this moment we pause in our confession.

[a pause of silence]

And so, we call upon your forgiveness, we call upon peace and we call upon you, our God, so that we may know your hand of grace eternally upon us. Let us hear that we are a forgiven people.

With thanks once more we say together. **Amen.**

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Come Down O Love Divine

Fernando Ortega

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6t2gkuyBVBnAWLKCwWqBL4?si=7ee74f22425a4dc5>

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: 27-38

Love for Enemies

²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Why would Jesus have said such impossible things?
- 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

Eternal God,
where there is hope, you are there.
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.

Where there is the struggle for peace,
you are there.

Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.

Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.

Wherever love is announced, you are there.