



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 13:1-9  
Living in a time of chaos

### 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

God of every blessing, you invite us into a life of deep meaning and purpose, a life of loving goodness and faithfulness. You nurture in us wisdom and hope, to be a reflection of your kingdom.  
Yet at times we are distracted by things that do not satisfy and waste our energy and purpose.  
Renew your call within us- your call to be open to your transformational life-giving presence.

### Song:

[To Follow This God](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/to-follow-this-god-mark-8-31-38-9-30-37-10-32-45) by Malcolm Gordon  
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/to-follow-this-god-mark-8-31-38-9-30-37-10-32-45>

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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

## Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

## 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? Why do you think the fig tree is in a vine yard?
- I wonder what you heard in the Word for our church? Why is repentance important for the 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 the fig tree yearns for nourishment to know its true purpose, so we too yearn for your movement in our lives, deeply nurturing us, transforming our vision, reshaping our purpose, to be the truest expression of who we are. In the midst of the upheavals facing our world today, may we walk as bearers of your hope, peace and wisdom.

(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. **Give us the words to speak and the courage to act for a just world.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **Give us the words to speak and the courage to act for a just world.**

(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. **Give us the words to speak and the courage to act for a just world.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

## Song for Reflection:

[Christ before Me](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2). by Malcolm Gordon  
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2>

## 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. In the name of Christ.

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