

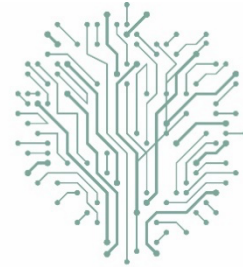
Closing Responses & Blessing

Go now with your trust in the good shepherd,
and let us love, not just in words,
but in truth and action.
Believe in the name of Jesus Christ,
and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 3.

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

Amen

1



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

A Holy Communion video led liturgy is available at
<https://vimeo.com/572335335>

Psalm 23 & John 10: 22-30
Easter 4 – Life with the Shepard

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

In the darkest valley,
at the banquet table;
in the hard work of life,
at the moments of ease;
in our day-to-day reality,
at times set aside—
like this time, now—
for worship, for listening, for paying attention;
with every step we take:
goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.
Amen. 1.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [We Belong](#)

© Songs for the Road, 2014

Written by Tessa Macaulay, Zoe Henderson and Cate Burton.

Performed by Lydia Cole

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/we-belong-tessa-macaulay-cate-burton-and-zoe-henderson>

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.

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Saltbush Community Ministers

- 1 Joanna Harader and posted on **Spacious Faith**. <https://spaciousfaith.com/>
- 2 Rev Karla, and posted on **RevGalBlogPals**. <https://revgalblogpals.org/>
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The Word around the Bush

Psalm 23:

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

John 10: 22-30

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter. ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What did you hear in the Word today?
- How do you understand the tension between free will and divine action?
- What things as Christian community could we do to respond to hearing the risen Christ call us by name to believe and belong?

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

Loving Shepherd,
You lead and guide,
You walk alongside,
You prepare, you feed, you call,
all of your sheep,
even those of us who are lost,
those of us who stray constantly,
those of us who stay close to your comforting staff.

We are grateful for the lush green pastures of our lives, and we pause now to offer our thanksgivings for the goodness's in our lives...

There are so many who walk in the shadows of fear and suffering and despair, and we pause now, to offer our prayers for the broken and bleeding places in this world...

We also offer our prayers for the sheep of our own flocks,
in our families and friends,
in this our church and our community...(pause)

O Loving Shepherd,
We have all we need,
as we live in You.

Amen. 2.