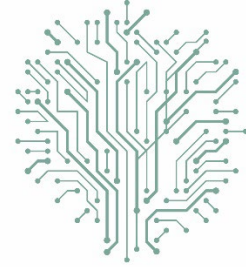


## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Show the Way

John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/show-the-way>



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Hosannah in the highest heaven.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Let us leave and walk the way of Christ throughout our week ahead. Bless us Lord and the people we meet along the way. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**John 5: 1-9  
Easter 6 – Hope in Life**

## Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

## Responses & Gathering Prayer

We come from our villages, our homes, our families and the communities we find ourselves in.

We come as people of the land, the town, the city, the office, the home, the business, the paddock, the road or the classroom.

We come as the people of God.

**Lord, open our ears, our hearts, our eyes and our minds to expect you, to see your way, to know your goodness in our lives and the communities in which we live.**

**Come to us, once more, in our gathering and worship today. We pray.**

**We give thanks for those moments when we noticed you in the days past and your nearness to us. Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Come Down O Love Divine

<https://michaelobrien.bandcamp.com/track/come-down-o-love-divine>

## 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

**John 5: 1-9.**

### Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

5 After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. 3 In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. 5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

## 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 where we see our hope... and God in it?
- What will you take away with you today after thinking about this passage?

## 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.

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:  
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*

**Amen.**