

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Our Father in Heaven](#)

© A Pocketful of Smooth Stones, released May 20, 2020
Written, performed and produced by Malcolm Gordon
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/our-father-in-heaven-w-forest>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Send us Jesus out into the world to live into a new way of being.

May we live in response to your mercy, justice and love

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

Amen

Beatitudes

Ponder how blessed we are to be hungry
Ponder how blessed we are to be poor
Ponder how blessed we are to be broken
Ponder how blessed to be born
Ponder how blessed we are to be mourning
Ponder how blessed when day is like night
Ponder how blessed to share Jesus' journey
From cradle to cross then to life

For when the healing Spirit sings
Then it's the wounded who'll be blessed
Then the wounded becomes a healer too
Bringing comfort bringing rest

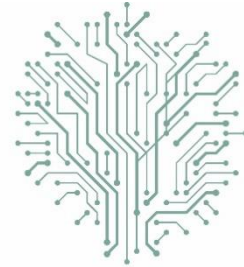
Ponder how blessed we are to show mercy
Ponder how blessed when we fashion peace
Ponder how blessed when our sins are acknowledged
And the breathing of God brings release

For when the healing Spirit sings
Then it's the wounded who'll be blessed
Then the wounded becomes a healer too
Bringing comfort bringing rest
For when the breath of heaven falls
to blanket our earth like a dew
Then our dry and dusty heartland
Will grow green again renewed

Ponder how blessed we are to be little
Ponder a life lived simple and pure
Ponder the washing of feet on the Thursday
Then the sharing of fish on the shore
Music and lyrics: © John Coleman [Pilgrims Together](#), 2009
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/beatitudes>

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Community Ministers

- 1 © written by Terri, **Seeking Authentic Voice.**
<http://seekingauthenticvoice.blogspot.ca/>



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>

Matthew 5: 21-37
Living into the Commandments

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

You have heard it said, that God's love endures forever.

Come listen to the voice of the one calling us to live into a new commandment.

Where there is hatred, bring love

Where there is predatory behaviour, bring justice

Where relationships break, bring reconciliation

Where there is community, bring relationships of integrity and equality

In your indiscriminate love O God, bring us to your life-giving mercy that we might love you, our neighbour and ourselves.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

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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

Matthew 5: 21-37

Concerning Anger

²¹ 'You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgement." ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, ²³ you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool", you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, ²⁵ and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

Concerning Adultery

²⁷ 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

Concerning Divorce

³¹ 'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." ³² But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Concerning Oaths

³³ 'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." ³⁴ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil 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 might a "how to" guide to discipleship be helpful in you and your Christian community?
- How might your Christian community respond to implementing Matthew's ethics of discipleship

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 God, we seek to follow your desire
And walk in your ways
To observe your commandment
Love God, love self, love others

Bless, O God, this land and
All the lands of the earth
Fill the minds and hearts
Of leaders with wisdom

As your servants may we labour
For Your purposes, building
Gardening, watering,
Reconciling, growing – peace, love and justice

May we work together
Sister and brother, brother
And sister, as God's field
God's gift to you, to me

Loving God, we seek to follow your desire
And walk in your ways
To observe your commandments
Love God, love self, love others

Amen. 1.