



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 17:20-26  
Unifying Creation

### Welcome

We are here today, not because of any denominational virtue or superior doctrine, but because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

### Lighting of Christ Candle

Light is sown among the people of God,  
**and happiness among the sincere in heart.**  
Rejoice in God, O you people of faith!  
**Give thanks to God's holy name!**

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Creator God in your Son you have called the church into being and called us to be reconcilers of the whole creation.

Enable us, and all the branches of your church, to deal graciously with one another, that glimpsing the compassion of an inclusive community, the world may turn from fear and doubt into faith and peace. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen \*

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2022 Saltbush Community Minister

### Song:

Come all ye people Uyai Mose : Zimbabwe

<https://youtu.be/O3kxxN5qmWU>

## 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 17:20-26 "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

<sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup>"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup>I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

What does it mean to you to practice unity in diversity?

Describe a time when you felt at one with God and the creation.

## Silence

In this time allow yourselves the space to be silent before God. Knowing that God hears your deepest thoughts and feelings.

## Prayers for Others

Let us pray for the Church of Jesus Christ in this week where we pray for Christian Unity.

Let us pray for the people of those denominations to whom we feel close and with whom we can work with minimal friction.

Let us pray for the denominations that make us feel uneasy and with whom common mission at the present time seems unlikely.

Let us pray for any who look down on us as irregular and inferior, and for those towards whom we are tempted to act with a patronising kindness.

Let us pray for churches which appear to be flourishing and growing and for those that seem to be shrinking and ineffectual.

Let us pray for all those individual Christians who reach out towards others with big hearted openness, and those who are timid, anxious or suspicious.

Let us pray for the National Council of Churches in this nation, and for the World Council of Churches in their service to the world.

Let us pray for each other here, that the love we find and share together may not become introverted but make us more generous and patient with those of all classes, races, and creeds.

We give you thanks, loving God, for those who have gone this way before us, and who are now among the great cloud of witnesses in your eternal church. May our prayers and theirs hasten the day when the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen! \*

## Song for Reflection:

The Summons by John Bell

<https://youtu.be/neUZJCLqYzg>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

God will go with you by day, go with you night by night,  
be with you in light, be with you in shadow,  
strengthen you in work, strengthen you in sleep,  
the great God will encircle your thoughts, your prayers,  
and you service.

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

\*(Adapted prayers from Bruce Prewer)