

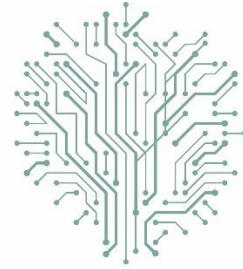
## Case for Love

Don't lose hope a case for love is out there.  
Don't pay respects, your dreams delayed not dead.  
Love isn't blind, turn on a light, it'll see you.  
Don't bide your time, just try to live until you die.

I hope you'll not  
give up odds on love as time goes by.  
Don't get caught up watching windows where others  
live their lives.

With love is change  
Alters every moment, every need.  
Both flesh and soul  
Their heart beats in cadence with yours.

By At Average



# SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 8:26-39

Pentecost 2: Transforming Life

For Saltbush Communion go to:

<https://vimeo.com/582800387>

### 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

The Psalmist says: "My soul longs for you, O God."  
These thousands of years later, we long for the same.  
We too long and thirst for you, even when we forget  
that we do. Even when we do not know it. God the  
deepest part of our being is crying out to know you.  
We long to be at peace with ourselves and with you.  
In Christ we pray. Amen. \*

### Song

[Living Icon](#) by Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/album/living-icon-single>

### 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 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"— <sup>29</sup>for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup>They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. <sup>32</sup>Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup>Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. <sup>34</sup>When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup>Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- Was there ever a time you may have felt excluded? What reason was given for your exclusion?
- What areas of your life as a Christian Community do you believe God wanting transformation?

## Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Don't worry too much if your mind is filled with other thoughts, allow them to drift away like a feather on the wind.

## Prayers for Others

Today, God, we pray for those who live in doubt: for those who doubt their own worth as human beings; for those who doubt they have a legitimate place in human community because they have learnt that their poverty excludes them, because they have been told of who they are they should be shunned, because they have been convinced that they are too fat, thin, old, or young to belong. We pray for those too who live in despair and cannot share their despair with anyone, who are certain they must suffer in isolation because doubt and despair are signs of weakness and can never be admitted. We pray for tall our community who have forgotten or feel they have never known the truth that is deep within them, the truth that we are all, every one of us, made in the very likeness of you, God. This is our prayer of hope and faith. Amen. \*

## Music for Reflection:

[Case for Love](#) by At Average

<https://ataverage.bandcamp.com/track/case-for-love>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Hope in God, people of faith!  
Remember who you are, the chosen of God, shaped to look and be like God in every way.  
Remember those around you now.  
You are brothers and sisters together,  
One family, one humanity.  
Remember your hope in God.  
Remember – and go in peace. Amen. \*

(\*prayers from Words for Worship: MediaCom Publications)