

•O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:
[silence for personal prayer or invite others to
open prayer in between each]

Your creation ...
Silence

For others we have hear 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

Closing Responses & Blessing

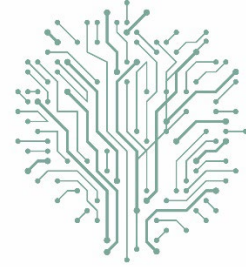
Go out into the world in peace,
To love and serve the Lord.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**Luke 12: 49-56
Fire**

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

•Come Holy Spirit of God, blow amongst us, and our lives. Welcome us to this place, as we welcome you. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds, and be a gentle blowing, a quiet word, a fire burning, a healing presence, as each has need. In the presence of the faithful we will proclaim your name.

As we come together today, old or young, sure or uncertain, peaceful or troubled, hopeful or doubtful, we give thanks that you welcome us into your being and into your love.

Forgive us for our acts that mean that we are less than open to you.
Forgive us for the ways open and hidden where do not welcome others.
Forgive us that we find it hard even to acknowledge within ourselves that we are loved and welcomed.

[silence]

Thankyou Jesus that you continue to offer love.
thankyou that you always welcome us.
thankyou that you already forgive. **Amen.**

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: **Quietly Quietly Be...**

Acknowledgment: © John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/quietly-be>

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 12: 49-56

Jesus the Cause of Division

⁴⁹ 'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

Interpreting the Time

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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 does it feel to ponder how the fire burns in us?
- What one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?

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.