



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 12:13-21
Being Abundant

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

We light the candle to remind us that Christ is the light of the world. And the light of Christ will never be diminished.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Loving God, by your most precious Son you have taught us that the good life slips through the fingers of those who are most grasping yet falls like a bonus into the hands of the poor and the humble. Teach us to trust nothing that money can buy, but to build our life on those eternal verities wherein are found love and peace and holy joy. Through Christ Jesus our rock and salvation. (by Bruce Prewer)

Song:

Gods given me everything by David McGregor.
<https://youtu.be/i4aKj5E2ic8>

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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 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

What are we storing up in our Churches and or Presbyteries that courageously could be used to resource mission in your context?

What is the “Queen” (Chess metaphor) in our Church that could well be put aside and reassessed for a season, to provide space for future missional discernment?

What am I holding back (gifts, abilities and resources) and storing up, that could now be used for mission here and now?

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

God of Life, Creator of the earth and all that is in it,
we lift our prayers of thanks to you
For the beauty of the earth that surrounds us,
For spring flowers that dazzle us and summer’s

greenery that delights us,
For autumn’s bounty that sustains us, and winter’s hibernation which settles us.

Thanks be to You, Creator of the heavens and the earth, to whom all things belong.

God, we enjoy your abundance, yet are seduced by accumulation.

Spirit of Abundance, let us not be possessed by our possessions.

We claim to enjoy your peace, yet we persist in worrying about things.

Spirit of Abundance, let us not be possessed by our possessions.

We sing of your “blessed assurance,” yet crave promises from our banks and pensions.

Spirit of Abundance, let us not be possessed by our possessions.

We commit ourselves to care for others,
Yet we stock our pantries for tomorrow, while millions suffer empty bellies today.

Spirit of Abundance, let us not be possessed by our possessions.

Our life span is short, at any moment to be taken from us. Free us from greed and fill us with generosity. Release us from insecurity and restore us to contentment with the treasures of your realm. Strip us of our fear and strengthen us to love one another as you have loved us.

Thanks be to You, Creator of the heavens and the earth, to whom all things belong.

(adapted from Ana & Tod Gobledale

<https://worshipwords.co.uk/prayer-inspired-by-luke-1213-21-ana-tod-gobledale/>)

Song for Reflection:

Welcome home all ye Refugees come in by Sarah McCracken <https://youtu.be/gpTL3by3910>

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 your service.

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