

Holy Spirit, storm and breath of love;
bridge-builder, eye-opener,
waker of the oppressed,
unseen and unexpected,
untameable energy of life -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for other people we know and are
close to ...

Silence

Holy Trinity, forever one,
whose nature is community;
source of all sharing,
in whom we love, and meet, and know our
neighbour:
life in all its fullness, making all things new:
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for our church, our wider
community and for ourselves ...

Silence

Hear all these our prayers who sends us out
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Adapted from - Brian Wren, Christian Aid Prayers, 1980.
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/church-seasons.aspx>

Closing Responses & Blessing

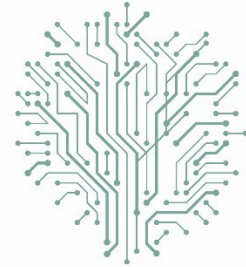
Go out into the world,
To love and serve the Lord.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 14: 1, 7-14
Pentecost 12

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

As we gather today and sit one beside each other
we give thanks that God welcomes us into love.

We give thanks that around the table of Christ
each and all are welcome to sit.

We confess that some have not been made
welcome. We think of those absent from our own
tables, absent from the table of this church, or
absent from the table of the wider church.

Let us be a people of humility and a people of
peaceful welcome.

Come to us Holy Spirit, within and around us, that
we would hear your word for our lives as we
gather today.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Come to the Circle...

Acknowledgment: © John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/come-to-the-circle>

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 14:, 1, 7-14.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

Humility and Hospitality

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ⁸‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Where do you see yourself in the sayings of Jesus from our reading today?
- What did you hear in today’s word?
- What did you hear from the sayings of Jesus in Luke that are relevant in your church community?

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

Living Love,
beginning and end,
giver of food and drink,
clothing and warmth,
love and hope:
life in all its goodness -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for your creation ...

Silence

Jesus, wisdom and word;
lover of outcasts,
friend of the poor;
one of us yet one with God;
crucified and risen:
life in the midst of death -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for others we have heard about
throughout our world ...

Silence