

Where we struggle to know how to pray, let us pray together.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

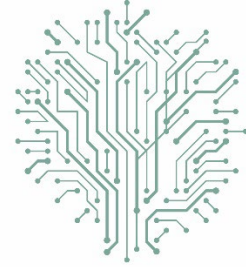
**Amen.**

## 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.**



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 18: 9-14  
The Pharisee & Tax Collector

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

We come as we have often before  
And as people come around the world.  
We come and pray as in our reading today;  
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector came to pray.

So let us come with an open mind.  
Let us come with humble hearts.  
Let us come with graciousness and love towards  
others.

We confess our sin and the ways we have not  
loved our God or loved our neighbour. We bow  
our heads in silence.

[silence]

Breath your Spirit into us Lord as only you can do  
and bring your peace and forgiveness.

Forgive us and send us from here today renewed.

● Hear the words of Christ spoken to us and to our  
world. "God, your sins are forgiven".

**Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: In you we live...

Acknowledgment: © 2020 Songs for the Road

Malcom Gordon & Keren Oey

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/in-you-we-live-keren-oey>

## 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 18: 9-14**

### The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector

9 [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

10 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." 13 But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- Where do you see yourself in today's parable?
- What troubled you in today's parable?
- How is the way of the Pharisee or the way of the Tax collector a comment on the way of God?

## 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

Let us pray.

God of the day and night,  
God of the summer and winter,  
God of the drought and the rain,  
We find ourselves in your presence.

Christ of friendship, of healing, of bread, wine and fish;  
We find ourselves in your presence.

Spirit of the eternal presence of God; you blow amongst us.

To you we pray for your people.

●Where there is suffering – Christ be healing.

Where there is hunger – Christ be bread.

Where there is loneliness and fear – Christ be friend.

Where there is hatred and war – Christ be peace amongst us.

Where there is bitterness – Christ be forgiveness.

Where there is judgement and legalism – Christ be our Gospel of life.

Where we are heavy with our love for others – Christ be peace to us and near to them.

Where we struggle ourselves – Christ walk beside us along the way.