

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.

● O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:

Your creation ...
Silence

For others we have heard 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

Come amongst us once more, that we would be amazed at your presence, your hand upon us and our world, healing, renewing life, challenging and changing.

These are our prayers. Amen.

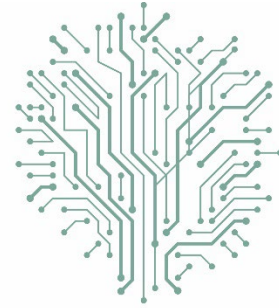
Closing Responses & Blessing

Rise up and go out, as people who have heard, known, seen the Christ amongst us, inviting us along the way.

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

Matthew 4: 12-23
Being Disciples

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Gathering Prayer

As we gather today, we recall the places Jesus walked...

By the Sea of Galilee.
Throughout the regions.
Into the villages.
Beside a water well.... Into the fields...
... and up the hills.

Let the Christ who walked the journey and talked to people along the way draw near to us today.

● Lord, who calls men and women and children, call to us once more that we might know your hand upon our lives. Renew within us that spark of faith that was kindled in our lives.

We give thanks for your ongoing call to creation, to humanity and into our lives. Living God.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: [The Way](#)

©Malcom Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/the-way-w-footsteps>

Prayer of Confession

We draw ourselves into confession for our world, our communities, our church, ourselves and the ways we have not loved you Lord, and not loved others as ourselves.

[silence]

Lord with you is forgiveness and life. Let us hear your words of forgiveness spoken to us and our world and may we be thankful in your presence. Go, your sin is forgiven. **Amen.**

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.

Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: [Christ before me](#)

©Malcom Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2>

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 4: 12-23.

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
16 the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death

light has dawned.'

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What were your first experiences of discipleship in your own life?
- What are your thoughts on being a disciple in today's world?
- What came to you as part of today's reading?

A time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. 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.