

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:
[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

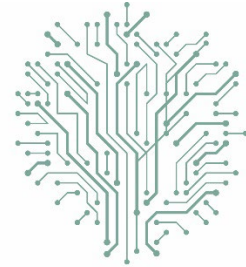
Closing Responses & Blessing

Let us go from here today as people of hope,
As people of the kingdom,
As people of the way of Jesus Christ.

Lord, giver of grace and life.
Seed and yeast,
Bringer of good news,
Send us out, a bearers of goodness,
Nurturers of the nearness of the kingdom amongst
others.

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 13: 31-33, 44-52
Pentecost 9 – Little Kingdom Parables

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Little mustard seeds.
Yeast in the bread.
Treasure in the field.
Searching for the pearl.
A large catch of fish in the net.

Let us draw ourselves into the goodness of the
presence of God. Let us open ourselves to images
of the way of the Kingdom of God.

Let's pray.

From the corners of our different lives we come,
And let us Lord rest a while here with you,
That we might once more hear your word,
And be encouraged in our discipleship, our
searching, our hope along the way.

**Open to our hearts once more the seeds and
yeast of life, the goodness and wonder found and
the abundance of your love.**

Lord, open our ears to hear your word and our
hearts to proclaim our praise.

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

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

31 He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

The Parable of the Yeast

33 He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Three Parables

44 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

45 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

47 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil

from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

51 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' 52 And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' 53 When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Which of these parables speaks strongly to you personally?
- What connections do you hear between Pentecost (The Spirit) and these parables?
- What did you hear in today's word?

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.