

•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.

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.

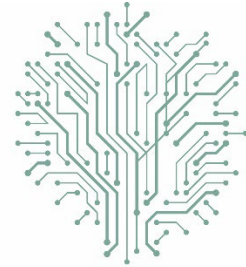
Closing Responses & Blessing

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

Matthew 14: 22-33
Pentecost 11

Welcome

[An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering](#)

Responses & Gathering Prayer

As we gather here, so Christ gathers with us.
As we come to this time and place, so Christ comes to us.

As we come with our doubt and hope, our joy and our fear, so Christ comes amongst our lives, in the fullness of our humanity.

We pray together:

Christ of the storm, give us peace.

Christ of the hungry, give us nourishment.

Christ of the weary, lift our spirits.

Christ of the people, so you come and dwell with us.

We give thanks for all good things and ways.

We give thanks for all signs of hope and life.

We pray that in our own lives we may be signs of the presence of Christ amongst others.

Amongst us O Christ, within and around us, open our ears that we would hear your word for our lives as we gather today.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Still be Still...

Acknowledgment: © John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/still-be-still>

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 14: 22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

28 Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.'

29 He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Where do you see yourself in today's reading from the Gospel of Matthew?
- What did you hear in today's word?
- What did you see in the vivid account of Jesus coming to the disciples across the water as relevant in your own 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

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 as you come to us.

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

To you we pray for your people.....