

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.**

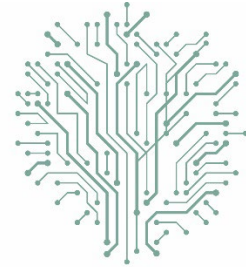
Amen.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Let us rise to love.
Let us leave in peace.
Let us be a people of life, within and around.

We leave and go out into the world as God's people. 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 25: 1-13
Being Awake and Aware**

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour".

Is this the day and the hour for us to sit aside and draw near to God?

[silence]

Is this the day and the hour for us to be hopeful, expectant and aware?

[silence]

Is this the day and the hour for us to be a people of faith in the presence of the Spirit?

[silence]

Eternal God, we come as your people within this moment of our lives and this moment of time and even in your eternity you draw near to us. As we draw near to you and you to us we pray for the soul within to be expectant.

Forgive us O Christ, for our sleepfulness towards others, their pain, and our part besides and towards you, within and around our living.

O Spirit of eternal yearning, you bring us peace and forgiveness. Let us know within the peace of Christ. **Amen.**

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Come one, come all.

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<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/come-one-come-all-2>

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 25: 1-13.

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

25 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." 12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What struck you from the Gospel today?
- What is it to be awake and aware with expectation as part of our faith?
- What is it for the church to be watchful?

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.....

- Where there is suffering – Christ be healing.

Where there is hunger – Christ be bread.

Where there is loneliness and fear – Christ be friend.