

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Colossian Hymn](#)

© Songs for the Saints, released May 30, 2016

Music and lyrics by Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/the-colossian-hymn>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Holy Spirit blow us into exploring where you are in our neighbourhoods.

Give us courage to discover you are there ahead of us.

Enable us to sit and listen alongside our neighbour to your welcome and love.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way

Father,

Son

and Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

### Slow Action of Love

There's a slow action of love (you know it)

It's as strong as a mountainous sea

And the slow action of love

Is beating like a heart in you and me.

There's a slow action of love

Faithful as the moon and the tide

There's a slow action of love

Tender as a start against the sky

When we know – we are loved

Just as we are – surely we are free

For the slow action of love

Each heart held in a community of hands

And the slow action of love

Is calling me, inviting me to stand

When we know – we are loved

Just as we are – surely we are free

For the slow action of love

The slow action of love

The slow action of love

Breath of God like a whisper a wave

The slow action of love

Words of hope become our songs of praise

The slow action of love

The slow action of love

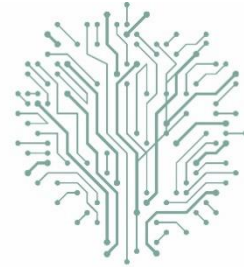
Suggested song: [Slow Action of Love](#)

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<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/slow-action-of-love>

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Community Ministers

1 © 2004, Bread for Tomorrow. Page 153.  
Graham Cook. "Say One for Me" Prayer  
Handbook 1990. URC - UK



# SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

*A Holy Communion video led liturgy is available at*

<https://vimeo.com/572335335>

Acts 16: 1-15  
Exploring - Discovering

## Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

## Responses & Gathering Prayer

"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit".

Blow Spirit, blow us out of our compliancy and our ways of being to discovering you again.

Lead us Spirit, lead us out of our tired ways of doing things into exploring your ways once again.

Call us Spirit, call us into Christian community that we might hear your voice for the journey ahead.

**Amen.**

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## 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

## Acts 16: 1-15

### Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

<sup>16</sup> Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup> He was well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup> Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and had him circumcised because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. <sup>4</sup> As they went from town to town, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily.

### Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia

<sup>6</sup> They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; <sup>8</sup> so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

### The Conversion of Lydia

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- What did you hear in the Word today?

- Tell about a time when you experienced God speaking through a person or situation in the neighbourhood?

- How might your Christian community be a place of exploration and discovery?

## 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

Wind of God, keep on blowing.

Sail over the barriers that we build to divide ourselves from each other.

Pick up your seeds of freedom and truth where they flourish, carry them across frontiers to be planted in other soil, to begin fresh growth and new forms.

Blow from the south and the north, from the east and the west to all peoples.

Blow away the blinkers which keep our eyes focused only on the past, repeating its violence, deepening its divisions and adding to its despair.

Reveal the new future you have in mind for us.

Fire of God, keep on burning, smoulder in the hearts of people where oppression keeps them in chains, where unemployment and poverty devalue their humanity and ours, and where hunger weakens the spirit. Burn in them, like Moses' bush, and do not let us be destroyed.

Tongue of God, keep on speaking so that the peoples of the earth can speak your language to each other and all can hear you in their own.

Speak peace where nations meet,  
justice where ideas clash,  
mercy where power reigns,  
healing where minds and bodies hurt,  
and love where churches see unity,  
and wherever else Babel drowns out the sound of your Word.

**Amen. 1.**