

Give us the perseverance and solidarity  
to look for love,  
even if the path has not yet been trodden,  
even if we fall;  
so we shall have known your kingdom  
which is being built for ever and ever.

In silence we pray for your world, its people, far  
and near, those who we love and those who we  
struggle to love, and for ourselves.

[silence]

Oh Lord hear our prayer.

Amen.

(Central American Lord's Prayer. Page 63 – Bread for Tomorrow: 2004. Ed. Janet Morley)

## Music for Reflection

**Suggested song:** Because we bear your name...

*Acknowledgment: © Robin Mann*

<https://robinmann.bandcamp.com/track/because-we-bear-your-name>

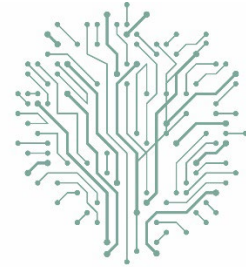
## Closing Responses & Blessing

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

**Luke 17: 5-10  
Pentecost 17**

## Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

## Welcome to Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the  
land on which we find ourselves, the .....  
people, and we pay our respects to their elders,  
past present and emerging.

## Responses & Gathering Prayer

We give thanks for all goodness.  
Creation and wonder.  
Love and the kindness of others.  
Water and food, comfort and peace.

We give thanks for those gathered around us.  
Friend and stranger.  
Family and loved ones.  
This community made up of different walks and  
ways.

We give thanks, eternal God, for your presence  
amongst us. Father, Son and the blowing of the  
Spirit.

We confess the ways we bind up, are limited by  
closed thinking, and for the times we no longer  
expect your remarkable way O God around us.

When we begin to believe that something small cannot be abundant and significantly holy.

[silence]

Come to us Holy Spirit, within and around us, that we would hear your word for our lives as we gather today.

**Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Morning has broken...

Acknowledgment: © Cat Stevens

<https://open.spotify.com/track/08iKq9eiXCQfD0uzNzzpbc?si=fc35fef8d2b548bd>

## 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

**Luke 17: 5-10**

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' <sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup>'Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here at once and take your place at the table"? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink"? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!"'

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- Talk about both mystery and knowledge as being part of faith?
- What does the little mustard seed image mean to you?
- What will you take with you from today's conversation and Word around the Bush?

## A Time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still; a time of "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

Our Father, who is in us here on earth,  
holy is your name  
in the hungry who share their bread  
and their song.

Your Kingdom come, which is a generous land  
which flows with milk and honey.

Let us do your will,  
standing up when all are sitting down,  
lifting the burden off the shoulders of others,  
and rising our voice when all are silent.

You are giving us our daily bread  
in the song of the bird  
and the miracle of the crops of the fields.

Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of  
injustice;  
and for burying our dreams  
for not sharing bread and wine,  
love and the land among us now.

Don't let us fall into the temptation  
of shutting the door through fear;  
of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice;  
of taking up the same arms as the enemy.  
But deliver us from evil.