

changing, ... with you is your enduring, eternal presence.

And so as Christian community we bring our prayer to you.

We pray for all nature, life, wonder, creation ...
Silence

We pray for others we have heard about throughout our world ...
Silence

We pray for other people we know and are close to and who need your presence within and around ...
Silence

We pray for our Christian community and church
Silence

We pray for ourselves ...
Silence

Come Lord Come and dwell amongst us in ways knowns and unknown we pray.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: For You Deep Stillness...

Acknowledgment: © Robin Mann

<https://robinmann.bandcamp.com/track/for-you-deep-stillness-3>

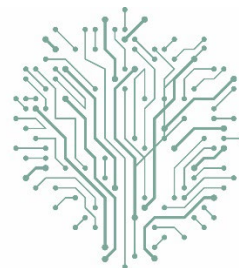
Closing Responses & Blessing

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.



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**Luke 21: 5-19
Pentecost 23**

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

Eternal God, gather us from across the land
Into one place through faith and Spirit.
Lord we are your people; gather us.
Lord we are your people; gather us.

Gather us from the pathways and highways,
from our comfort, from our pain,
from those places where we hide
and those places where we know your presence.
Lord we are your people; gather us.
Lord we are your people; gather us.

As we are drawn together in faith,
So come together with us Lord,
Within our homes, within our Saltbush
community, within those beside us or those whose
faces are before us.
Lord we are your people; gather with us.
Lord we are your people; gather with us.
Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Always there...

Acknowledgment: © John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/always-there>

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 21: 5-19

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

5 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 6 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

Signs and Persecutions

7 They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' 8 And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

9 'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' 10 Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11 there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

12 'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; 15 for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be

betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 You will be hated by all because of my name. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your souls.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What are some "stones" or things that the church clings on to which we wrongly believe are unchangeable?
- What did you hear in today's Word Around the Bush?
- What do you feel about the comments of God both among and beyond us in **unimaginable** and **unexpected** ways?

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

Eternal God,
We hear of wars and insurrections,
nation against nation.

We hear of earthquakes and famine,
floods, fire and unquenchable heat waves.

We hear of persecution, oppression, dispossession
all marked by fear and suffering.

And it seems overwhelming.

And while much of what we have believed was
enduring and all the things we cling to seem to be