

We pray for the Church, your body of believers.
Unite us in love, strengthen us in faith, and
empower us to share the Gospel with the world.

Amen.

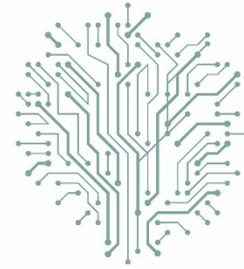
Closing Responses & Blessing

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with
you all.

Go now, filled with hope to serve. Live each day
with a heart of vigilance, a spirit of readiness, and
a profound understanding of God's unwavering
love.

Amen.

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SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 24: 36-44
Be Vigilant!

Welcome

Welcome and greet your congregation and/or
faith community.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves of
God's grace, which serves as the illuminating light
of the world.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of
these lands and waters where we meet, the
_____ Nation (of the _____ peoples).
We pay our respects to their elders, past and
present, and to all descendants of these nations
who have cared for this place since creation.
We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Peoples here today.

Stuart McMillan

Assembly Consultant Covenanting Assembly Resourcing Unit

Music for Reflection

Suggested song:

O Holy Night
by [Laura Pattillo](#)

<https://laurapattillo.bandcamp.com/album/o-holy-night>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 24: 36-44

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What personal challenges do you face in maintaining vigilance?
- What distracts you from focusing on Christ?
- What promises and encouragements can you find in this passage that offer hope and strength in your walk with Christ?

Silence

Please take a moment to find a comfortable position and prepare yourself for five minutes of complete silence. Gently close your eyes and allow

yourself to relax, while remaining fully present and aware of your surroundings.

Prayers of Confession and For Others

Gracious God, we confess to moments of spiritual slumber, when we become complacent in our faith, neglecting prayer, Scripture, and fellowship. We allow the cares and distractions of this world to consume our attention, and we forget the importance of being watchful.

We confess our selfishness and our unwillingness to share our resources, time, and talents with those in need, forgetting that we are stewards of all you have given us.

We confess our times of doubt and uncertainty, when we question your promises and lose sight of your power. Forgive us for our wavering faith and strengthen us to trust in you completely.

Help us to turn away from sin and embrace a life of repentance and obedience. Grant us the grace to live as faithful servants.

Loving God, we pray for those who do not know you, who are unaware of your love and grace. Open their hearts to hear the Gospel, and soften their hearts to believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. May they come to know the hope and peace that comes from a relationship with you.

We pray for those who are struggling with weariness, discouragement, and hardship. Grant them strength, endurance, and hope. Surround them with your love and provide for their needs.

We pray for Christians around the world who are facing persecution for their faith. Protect them, strengthen them, and give them courage to stand firm in their beliefs. Comfort those who are suffering and bring justice to those who are oppressed.

We pray for those who are suffering from illness, disease, and pain. Heal them, comfort them, and give them strength to endure. Surround them with your love and presence.