

Closing Responses & Blessing

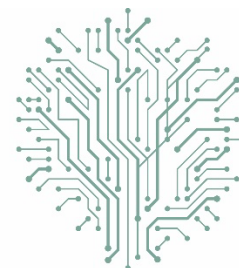
May the Lord our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. May He fill you with His peace and joy, empowering you to live lives of faith, hope, and love.

Go...

Strengthened by God's grace, to love and serve Christ and others.

Amen.

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2020 Saltbush Community Ministers



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
Anchored in Grace

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:

Amazing Grace by Reflect

<https://reflect.bandcamp.com/track/amazing-grace-hallelujah>

Passing the Peace

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

The Word around the Bush

2 Thessalonians 2: 13-17

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Chosen for Salvation

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits^[a] for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth.¹⁴ For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What stands out to you in the reading or message?
- Are you anchored in the Word of God?
- Are you allowing the love of Christ to overflow in your life?

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

Forgive us, Lord, for neglecting to stand firm in Your truth and for allowing doubt, worry, and complacency to weaken our resolve. Forgive us for times when we have failed to love others as You have loved us, and when our words or actions have not reflected Your grace. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and renew our hearts in Your Spirit.

Thank you for choosing us before the foundation of the world. We admit that we often take Your grace for granted and forget the immense cost of our salvation. Forgive us for taking Your love lightly and for not living with the boldness and courage that Your Spirit provides.

Lord, we turn to you in prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world and in our nation. We pray that they, too, may be rooted in Your love and anchored in Your grace.

We uplift our church/ faith community. We pray for unity amid diversity, for boldness in sharing Your Gospel, and for the courage to live out the hope we hold in You.

Strengthen us in every good deed and word. Fill us with Your Spirit, so that we may be living testimonies of Your grace, overflowing with love and hope to those around us. Help us hold fast to the truth and stand firm.

We pray for our leaders, both within the church and in government. Give them wisdom, integrity, and courage to lead with justice and mercy.

Thank you, Lord, for your mercy, your grace, and your relentless love.

Amen.