



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 5:13-20
Letting Go: Life Commandments

Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we share our lives with others

Lighting of Christ Candle

God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ the light of the world. May the light shine for the hope of the world.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Gracious God,
The cosmos is filled with your wonder and glory, so much more than we could ever begin to comprehend. Yet you invite us to journey with you, to be alert to your presence and aware of your love.

Thank you for the abundance of your life.

May we know it in our own living.

May we share your graciousness with others.

May we honour your abundant life in them.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Song:

[Revealing the Holy](https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/revealing-the-holy) by John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/revealing-the-holy>

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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

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- How do you remain salty? What can diminish your saltiness?
- What does being salty mean for your church?

Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

Prayers for Others

Gracious God, your Word and Spirit challenge our lives. Sometimes we attribute our success solely to how welcoming we are, our charismatic leadership, our buildings or the programs we conduct. Remind us again that it is by your gracious abundance that make all things possible. We pray that you continue to

speak into our lives, unsettle our pride and bring us to new life-giving ways of understanding.

(pause)

For those whose lives are given less value or respect because of gender, class, race or religion. **May we honour your life in them.**

(pause)

For all your creation, the land, the animals, the oceans that are under threat because of our insatiable need for more. **May we honour your creation as we work for renewal.**

(pause)

We know you are with those who are experiencing difficult days in our communities, may we be free to share our lives with them, **an expression of your love in their midst.**

(pause)

In this time of silence, we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

Song for Reflection:

[In this Quiet Place](#) by The Many

<https://themanymany1.bandcamp.com/track/quiet-place-in-this-quiet-place>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, journey with the One who walks with you and calls you to a deeper truth.

Go with open hearts and minds, knowing the Spirit of God is with you.

And may you be voices of wisdom, your actions standing for justice and peace as you point to the God of Grace, Abundance and Love.

In the name of Christ.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**