

## Prayers for Others

Gracious God, may we look at each other with your eyes of love and understanding, gently affirming the gifts of each person and open to receive new ideas.

**Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.**

(pause)

We pray that we will see people as your beloved children and listen to your guidance on how best to be in relationship for the enhancing of all lives.

**Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.**

(pause)

May we discern your ways in the communities in which we find ourselves. Seeking to walk alongside those who do your will for the sake of justice and compassion.

**Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.**

(pause)

Invite us into the sacred spaces of your creation that we may know how to restore, nurture and protect all you have called 'good'

**Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.**

(pause)

In this time of silence, we bring you the prayers of hearts.

**Hear our prayers, loving God, in Christ Jesus.**

(pause)

In Christ, Amen. 1.

## Music for Reflection:

[Prayer](https://marybrizard1.bandcamp.com/track/prayer) by Mary Saunders Brizard

<https://marybrizard1.bandcamp.com/track/prayer>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

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

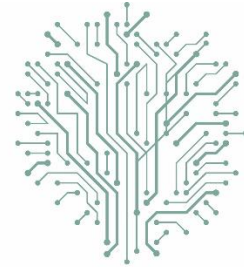
Go with open hearts and minds, knowing the Spirit of God is with you.

And may you be voices of wisdom, your actions standing for justice and peace as you point to the God of Beauty, 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**

1. Adapted from Words for Worship. Mediacom Education inc.



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 9:1-41  
No Longer Blind

### 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, anoint us with your mercy and compassion and the beauty of your love.

Speak into our lives your hope and justice.

Touch our hearts with your eternal grace.

Fill our senses with the abundance of your presence.

**May your love for us be returned in the way we show our love towards other and to all you have created.**

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### Song:

[Lead me to Hope](https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/59-lead-me-to-hope) by Peter Kearney

<https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/59-lead-me-to-hope>

### 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

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is

a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- What ways have you found fear, disbelief or control block you from knowing the presence of God?
- In what ways can your church be open to the presence of God?

## Silence

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