SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

> Matthew 14:13-21
> An Abundant Life

Welcome

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 eternal Creator,
We touch on your immensity as we gaze upon the night sky.
We are grounded in your embrace when we love and are shown love.
We are humbled by the work of your hands when we encounter in our lives the risen Christ, our bread of life.
May we know your work in our lives, the work of your peace, the work of your grace and mercy, the work of your love found in person of the Jesus Christ and the outpouring of your Spirit. Amen

Song

Break the Bread by Malcolm Gordon
https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/break-the-bread

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 14:13-21

[13]Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. [14]When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. [15]When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." [16]Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." [17]They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." [18]And he said, "Bring them here to me." [19]Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. [20]And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. [21]And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

●In what ways do experience God's abundance in your life?

●In what ways does your church experience the abundance of God?

●What is one action you or your church can take in showing God's abundance to others?

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

Merciful Creator, as you nurture our lives and grow us in your ways of wisdom and understanding through your Spirit and in the person of Jesus Christ, may we be always open to your leading and receptive of your grace. May we know your works in our life, through Christ.
(pause)
For those who are powerless and weighed down by the injustices they experience each day as they are judged by race, class and religion. **May we work alongside you for the sake of justice and reconciliation.**
(pause)
For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we honour the work of your hands and work with you for the renewal of all creation.**
(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 also. **May we all know your healing actions through the power of your Spirit.**
(pause)
In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.
(pause)
In Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

Song for Reflection:

Bread of Angels by Dorothy and Robin Mann
https://robinmann.bandcamp.com/track/bread-of-angels

Closing Responses & Blessing

May God the Creator reshape our hearts;
may Christ Jesus, the bread if life, sustain us always;
and may the Holy Spirit unite us in the bond of peace.

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

(Nathan Nettleton: Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources)