

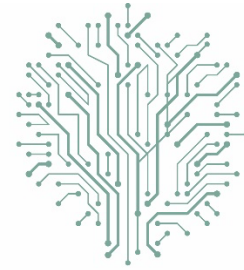
## Closing Responses & Blessing

We've heard the call to embrace the fire Jesus brings – a fire that purifies, reveals truth, and ignites love, disrupting complacency and challenging norms. We know following Christ can bring division, even within our families and communities. Let us fully embrace this transformative fire, overcoming our fear of the discomfort it may cause.

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

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SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 12: 49-56  
Fire, Division & Discernment

### 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 this/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:*

**Jesus Culture - Holy Spirit**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNwnOfZ5N8A&list=RDqNwnOfZ5N8A&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNwnOfZ5N8A&list=RDqNwnOfZ5N8A&start_radio=1)

## Passing the Peace

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

## The Word around the Bush

**Luke 12: 49-56**

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

### Jesus the Cause of Division

<sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

### Interpreting the Time

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- What is God calling me to do in this moment?
- How can I live more faithfully in the light of the Gospel?
- How are you responding to the divisions that arise when you stand for truth and justice?

## 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

God of unity,

We confess that we often shy away from difficult conversations and challenging injustices, fearing the discord that may arise. We prioritize peace over truth, and unity over justice. Forgive us for valuing comfort over conviction. Grant us the courage to speak truth in love, even when it causes discomfort, and to stand firm in our faith, even when it leads to division. Help us to be instruments of your peace, but also agents of your transformative justice.

We lift up families experiencing conflict and division. Heal broken relationships, mend hurt feelings, and bring reconciliation where there is strife. Help family members to forgive one another and to seek Your peace. Grant wisdom and patience to navigate difficult conversations.

We pray for unity within our congregation/ faith community. Tear down walls of division caused by personal preferences, and cultural biases. Help us to love one another as You have loved us, and to work together to build Your Kingdom.

Merciful God, hear our prayers. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to live lives that are pleasing to you. Help us to be bold witnesses to your love and justice in the world.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**