

We know that forgiveness is not always easy. It requires strength and courage to let go of past hurts and to extend grace to those who have wronged us. So, we ask for your strength and guidance to embody the teachings of Jesus. Help us to forgive others as you have forgiven us, and to love as you have loved us.

We pray for the strength to be generous and generous in our giving. Help us to share our resources with those in need, recognizing that everything we have comes from your hand. Open our eyes to the opportunities to serve others and give us a heart that desires to make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate.

Lord, as we strive to live out your teachings, we acknowledge our need for your grace and guidance. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be transformed into vessels of your love and mercy. May our lives reflect your character, and may others see your light shining through us.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Fairest Lord Jesus

from [Amazing Grace](#) by [Reflect](#)
<https://reflect.bandcamp.com/track/fairest-lord-jesus>

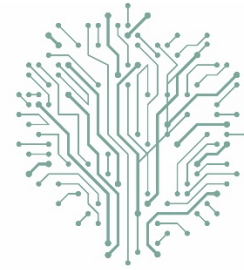
Closing Responses & Blessing

As you go from here, may you choose grace in your daily interactions, knowing that God is always with .

May the grace of God envelop us,
The love of Jesus Christ sustain us,
And the peace of the Holy Spirit guide us.

Amen.

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SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 6: 27-38
Choose to respond with Grace

Welcome

Embrace this sacred space.
Find comfort in this safe environment.
Experience the abundance of God's grace.
Let us pray, sing and worship together.

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:

Grace That is Greater
from [Amazing Grace](#) by [Reflect](#)
<https://reflect.bandcamp.com/track/grace-that-is-greater>

Passing the 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

Luke 6: 27-38

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Love for Enemies

²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.^[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What aspects of this reading resonated with you? What key message do you feel is important to highlight?

- How do you personally define an "enemy," and how can we practically apply the command to love them?

- Can you think of any examples from your own life where you have shown kindness to someone who has treated you poorly? How did it impact the situation?

- How can we cultivate a heart of generosity and selflessness, especially in a world that often promotes self-centeredness?

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

Gracious and loving God, as we reflect on the words of Jesus in our reading this morning, we are reminded of the call to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to bless those who curse us. Lord, we confess that we have often fallen short of these commandments. We have allowed anger and resentment to fill our hearts instead of extending love and forgiveness. Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have harbored ill feelings towards others, and for the times when we have failed to extend grace and mercy.

We lift up those who are considered our enemies. We pray for those who have wronged us or hurt us, asking for your healing and reconciliation. Help us to see them with compassionate eyes, to understand their pain and struggles, and to respond with grace and understanding. May your love and forgiveness flow through us, breaking down barriers and transforming hearts.

Lord, we pray for all those who are persecuted or marginalized because of their race, nationality, gender, or any other factor. Help us to stand up against injustice and discrimination, and empower us to be agents of change in our communities. May your love and justice prevail, bringing healing and unity to all.