

## Music for Reflection

*Suggested song:*

We Believe - Light Of Grace

from [Christian Worship Music Vol 1](#), by [We Believe](#)

<https://webelieve33.bandcamp.com/track/light-of-grace>

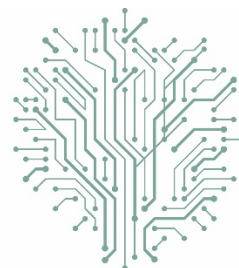
## Closing Responses & Blessing

Just like the fig tree that was given a second chance to bear fruit, may this Lenten season be a time of renewal and transformation for each of us. Let us be mindful of our own lives and the ways in which we can grow closer to God and bear the fruits of love, kindness, and compassion.

As you go from here, may you carry the message of forgiveness and grace with us, knowing that God's mercy is abundant and ever-present.

**Amen.**

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©  
2020 Saltbush Community Ministers



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 13: 1-9  
Repentance is Transformative

### Welcome

O, Lord, as we gather for worship today, let us set aside our distractions and concerns of the world, and focus on the journey of reflection and repentance that Lent provides us. May we seek God's presence and guidance as we continue on this path of spiritual renewal. We lift our voices in prayer and praise, honouring the sacrifices of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### 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:*

You Deserve Praise

from [Other Christian Worship Songs](#) by [Dan Ryker](#)  
<https://danryker.bandcamp.com/track/you-deserve-praise>

## 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 13:1-9**

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

### Repent or Perish

13 At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

### The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

## The Message

[From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.](#)

## Questions for conversation

- How do you respond to the idea of repentance? Do you view it as necessary for spiritual growth and transformation?

- Have there been times in your life when you have witnessed tragedy or suffering and questioned why it happened? How does Jesus' response in this passage challenge your perspective?

- Reflecting on the parable of the fig tree in this passage. What does it teach us about God's patience and grace, as well as the importance of bearing fruit in our lives?

- How can you apply the message of this passage to your daily walk with God and relationships with others?

## 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

Compassionate God,

We are called to repent, and we acknowledge our need for your forgiveness and mercy. We have strayed from your path, ignored the needs of others, and failed to bear good fruit in our lives. Forgive us, O Lord, and help us to return to you with contrite hearts.

We also lift up to you those around us who are suffering and in need. Just as Jesus interceded on behalf of the fig tree, we ask for your grace and compassion to be poured out on those who are in distress. May your healing touch be upon the sick, your comfort be with the grieving, and your provision be for the needy. Help us to be instruments of your peace and love in the lives of others.

Guide us, O Lord, during this Lenten season as we seek to grow closer to you. May we bear fruit in keeping with repentance and be transformed by your grace.

**Amen.**