

Closing Responses & Blessing

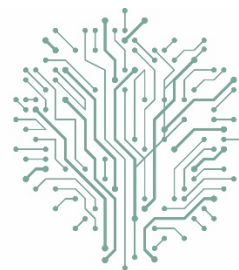
May we be builders who complete the tower, and warriors who win the battle.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Amen.

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©
2020 Saltbush Community Ministers



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 14: 25-33
Cost of Discipleship

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:

Take Up Your Cross

from [Collection 9](#) by [Restoration Network Music](#)
<https://restorationnetworkmusic.bandcamp.com/track/take-up-your-cross-matthew-16-24-26>

Passing the Peace

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

The Word around the Bush

Luke 14: 25-33

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Cost of Discipleship

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What is something that stood out to you from the reading or Word Around The Bush?
- What does discipleship look like your faith community/ congregation?
- Will you walk the road of radical discipleship, trusting that in losing our lives for His sake, you will have eternal life?

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

Merciful God, we confess that we often fall short of the radical commitment Jesus calls us to.

We confess that we often fail to count the cost of following Jesus. We rush into commitments without truly understanding the implications, and then we become discouraged when the path gets difficult. We begin to doubt, to complain, and even to abandon the journey altogether.

We confess that we cling to our possessions, our relationships, and our reputations more tightly than we cling to you. We fear losing these things more than we fear losing your favor. We allow these attachments to define us, rather than allowing you to define us.

Lord, we lift up to you those who are struggling with the demands of discipleship.

We pray for those who are facing persecution for their faith, that they would find strength and courage in you to stand firm. May you comfort them.

We pray for those who are feeling overwhelmed by the challenges of life. Remind them that you are with them always, and that you will never leave them nor forsake them. Help them to cast their burdens on you.

We pray for the Church as a whole, that we would be a community of radical disciples, willing to lay down our lives for one another and for the sake of the Gospel. Empower us to be bold witnesses to your love and grace.

We pray for those who do not yet know you, that their hearts would be opened to the truth of the Gospel. Send your Holy Spirit to draw them to you and give us the courage to share the Good News with them.

We ask all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.