

Prayers for Others

For this embodied prayer, it's best to use strips of soft material, but any fabric (even tea towels) would do.

We have heard how God has longed so many times to gather together the lost, oppressed, and hurting and hold them close.

In our prayers for others today, you are invited to come forward and cover part of our Lenten scene with a piece of cloth. You might want to pray for the earth, the waters, a particular country, or a person you know. You might ask for peace, courage, freedom, or hope to rest upon them in this time. You might speak a few words out loud, or you might lay the cloth down without words. It's up to you.

Let us pray together for our world.

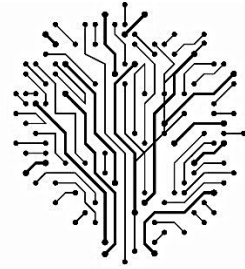
Song (can play during prayer):

[Sanctus/Benedictus](#) by Sarah Snider, from "Mass for the endangered" 2020.

Closing Responses & Blessing

As we leave this place
and go into a world
that is not always good at welcomes,
may the peace of God rest upon you,
the love of Christ enfold you,
and the Holy Spirit empower you
to press on with courage and compassion
- today, tomorrow, and the next day.
Amen.

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©
2025 Saltbush Community Minister



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 13:31-35
A fox in the hen house?

Acknowledgment of Country¹ & Call to Worship

Set the table with a tray of sand. You will need a BATTERY OPERATED candle, a bowl and jug of water, a large rock or stone, and some "people" in whatever form you choose.

Over eons the earth has settled and formed. The colours merge and the stories entwine.

The rock is placed on the sand.

**May those who have kept the stories
of God's earth be honoured.**

The flow of life ripples, finding cracks and crevices. It glistens and sparkles with promise.

*Water is poured into a bowl on the sand
from the jug.*

**May those who quench a spiritual
thirst be blessed.**

Darkness is banished with the sharing of light. Relationships enlighten and corruption dissipates.

The "lit" candle is placed on the sand.

¹ Acknowledgement of First Peoples (Country) in the UCA.
UCA Assembly, accessed 03/02/2025,
<https://ucaassembly.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/240>

**May the Light of the World be carried
in the hearts of the people of God.**

We reach out to God and to one another.

*Place the figures in the sand and/or invite
the people stretch out their hands.*

**May God remake us
as a covenant people,
bound together by the Spirit of this
land and guided by her First Peoples.**

*Using hand gestures or holding up the
elements as they occur in the prayer:*

God -

God, you are.

God, you are everywhere.

God of sand,
God of stream,
God of everywhere
in between

God of the dry places
where the sun beats down
and the rivers dry up
and the grasses brown

God of the streams
where creatures meet
to quench their thirst
and escape the heat

God of hearts
as hard as stone,
struggling through life
as though alone

God of children
called by grace
to meet you
in this sacred space

Bless this second week of Lent;
change our lives as we repent.
Give us eyes to see and ears to hear:
this is the day that you draw near.

Song:

[Day by day](#) by Porter's Gate Publishing,
released 2017. All rights reserved.

Passing the Peace

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

The Word around the Bush

Luke 13:31-35 (NIV)

³¹ At that time, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.'

³² He replied, 'Go and tell that fox, "I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day, I will reach my goal."' ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day – for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

The Message

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

Silence

Spend some time in silence "sitting with God" — a silent time in which we focus all our mind, heart and soul on feeling God gathering us up like a chick under her wings.

Questions for Conversation

- What are some of the cities/countries that you want to weep for?
- How do you ensure you use your personal power for good?
- Who can you offer a safe and nurturing space for in this season?