

The Message

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

Questions for Conversation

- Have you experienced a time in your life when you felt lost? What brought you back?
- How can we better celebrate moments of reconciliation and healing in our community?

Words of Commitment

**In a world where so many have lost
their way and feel lonely and unloved -
like no one sees them,
or is looking for them,
or longs to know their name:
I commit my eyes
to seeing their inherent worth,
my ears to listening to their stories,
my hands to reaching out
with the love of Christ,
my knees to sitting beside them
and their pool of tears,
my heart to desiring their best,
my mind to growing in understanding,
and my spirit to working in tune
with the Spirit of God. Amen.**

Song

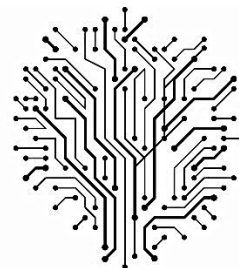
[Christ has no body](#) by The Porter's Gate,
from "Work Songs" 2002.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Once we were blind but now we see
that even the lost are so very loved.

May the love of the Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, go with us now
and find expression in how we talk,
and live, and love in all of our longings
and our belonging.

Amen.



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered
Christian community

**Luke 15:11b-32
Lost**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Today we stop.
We breathe.
We sit down slow
and know that whoever we are,
and wherever we come from,
And however lost or found we feel,
God is here with us.
<the candle is lit>

Gathering prayer

"I nearly lost it"
- it's a common enough phrase.
It means I got mad - real mad -
so mad that I nearly lost my temper,
my control, my composure.

I often lose things:
my keys, my glasses, my pen,
my phone charger, my wallet,
a single sock in the wash!

And it's frustrating, irritating,
inconvenient ... because I normally only
notice when I'm headed out the door and
they're not where I normally leave them
AND NOW I'M GOING TO BE LATE.

And no one else seems to care
or to have seen where I put them -
AREN'T THEY PAYING ATTENTION?!?

But the other day, for a moment,
I nearly let the mask slip;
this carefully curated, perfectly polite,
appropriately smiling, nodding,
acceptable public face nearly faltered

Have you ever thought about all the things
we lose in a lifetime?

I'm not talking about the small stuff.
But the big things -
the really important things
that make life worth living
that we can't imagine making do without
and then - suddenly
and often entirely against our wills -
we have to.

*<you may want to encourage others to
name some of these big losses>*

I nearly lose it
when I think of all we've lost.

Groan with us, Spirit of God,
and with all who feel lost this day:
in their grief,
in their suffering,
in their loneliness,
in their despair,
in their rage,
in their circumstances.
Amen.

Song:

[Once, when I was lost](#) by Cathryn Stone,
released 2009. All rights reserved.

The Word around the Bush

Luke 15:11b-32 (NIV)

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"