

## Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: Psalm 23

Alexon Compilation Album, released July 25, 2016,  
<https://alexonmusic.bandcamp.com/track/psalm-23-3>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

The blessing of God be upon each of us to draw us into faith.

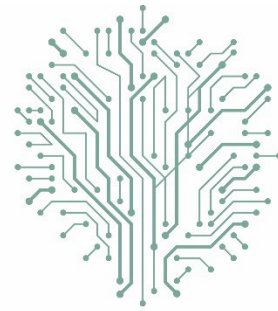
The blessing of Christ be upon each of us to challenge and call us along the way.

The blessing of Spirit be upon each of us to send us out into our community and wider world.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.

Amen.



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered  
Christian community

John 10: 22-30  
Easter 4

## Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

## Gathering Prayer

We come to this place, amongst those gathered around us, to respond to you Lord; God with us.

We want to hear plainly, to know, to hear, your voice within our lives, you hand upon us, your Spirit blowing.

Yet open us to mystery, to stillness, to waiting and hope; open us to your gentle urging within and around.

We give thanks for all goodness, for works beyond our imagining, for acts of generosity and love, for creation and song and for all living things.

We give thanks Lord, and we come to listen in the silence, to wonder in the mystery and to open ourselves to your Word, Way and Wonder.

This we pray. **Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: Because we bear your name.

Robin Mann.

<https://robinmann.bandcamp.com/track/because-we-bear-your-name>

## 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

**John 10: 22-30.**

### Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews

<sup>22</sup> At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one.'

You may also choose to read the Psalm for today:  
**Psalm 23.**

## The Message

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

<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/the-word-around-the-bush/>

## Questions for conversation

●What do you think about the thoughts of a transcendent and incarnational God?

●How open are you / we / the church to a transcendent God?

●What else did you hear in our passage today?

## A Time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still; a time of "sitting with God" — a silent time in which we focus all our mind, heart and soul on the presence of God without trying to create it. Simply be still and open to God.

## Prayers for Others

Eternal God,  
where there is hope, you are there.  
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.  
Where there is the struggle for peace, you are there.  
Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.  
Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.  
Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In you is such longing for your creation, and for humanity, and we thank you for that presence of you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and saving.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.

●O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for your creation...

*Silence*

For others we have heard about throughout our world ...

*Silence*

For other people we know and are close to ...

*Silence*

For our church and our wider community ...

*Silence*

For ourselves ...

*Silence*

**Amen.**