

For our church and our wider community; in both
our hope and our fear...

Silence

For ourselves ...

Silence

And we pray together.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

In you we live

Malcolm Gordon

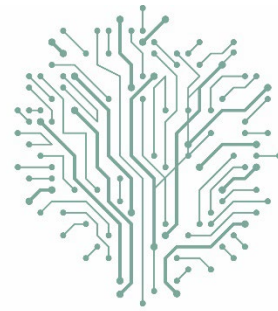
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/in-you-we-live-keren-oev>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Lord bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen.



SALT BUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**John 17: 20-26
Easter 7**

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the
gathering

Welcome to Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the
land on which we find ourselves, the
people, and we pay our respects to their elders,
past present and emerging.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Lord, sometimes we come to worship like James
and John, willingly ready to leave behind and
follow.

Sometimes we come like Zachaeus, simply
wanting to see, never imagining we would actually
meet you here.

Sometimes we come like the rich man, or the
Pharisees, full of much, and full of ourselves, but
needing to be challenged.

Sometimes we come, calling out like the blind
man, wanting to be healed, in body, in mind, in
spirit.

Sometimes we come back, like just one of the lepers, to give thanks for your part in our lives, for your hand upon us.

However we come today, through prayer, song, word, bread and wine, still our minds, open our hearts, that we may know you, and indeed find life.

To your name, Jesus the Christ, we give our praise, our song, our lives.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Drawn from the Grass

John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/drawn-from-the-grass>

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 17: 20-26. (Also Psalm 97)

²⁰ "I pray for these followers, but I am also praying for all those who will believe in me because of their teaching. ²¹ Father, I pray that they can be one. As you are in me and I am in you, I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me. ²² I have given these people the glory that you gave me so that they can be one, just as you and I are one. ²³ I will be in them and you will be in me so that they will be completely one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you loved them just as much as you loved me.

²⁴ "Father, I want these people that you gave me to be with me where I am. I want them to see my glory, which you gave me because you loved me before the world was made. ²⁵ Father, you are the One who is good. The world does not know you, but I know you, and these people know you sent me. ²⁶ I showed them what you are like, and I will show them again. Then they will have the same love that you have for me, and I will live in them."

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

- In what ways is "being one" a challenge to the church, to your congregation, to you?
- What did you hear in the message today?

Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

- You may like to say the prayer phrase "Mar-an-ath-a" (which means come Lord). Say this as four syllables. Do not try to think or imagine anything. If thoughts or distractions come simply return to saying the word.
- Or you may like "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

Christ of the world, as you prayed alone, and as you prayed for those around you, so we bring our prayers.

In our prayers let us draw near to you.
In our prayers let us listen more than speak.
In our prayers let us be the faithful.

- O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for your creation; the earth and all that gives it life and shape...

Silence

For others we have heard about throughout our world; the struggling, the wounded, the fearful ...

Silence

For other people we know and are close to; those we love and those we find hard to love ...

Silence