

For those we hear about throughout our world,
who suffer injustice, persecution, oppression and
hunger.

For the men, women and children of Gaza.

**As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God**

For people who find life overwhelming and feel
lost or without hope.

[silence]

**As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God**

For those who struggle with mental health, for
those rejected by community, for those who seem
nameless and live like the living dead.

[silence]

**As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God**

For others we know who sit on our minds and
hearts.

[silence]

**As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God**

And for ourselves we pray.

[silence]

**As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God**

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: The Summons...

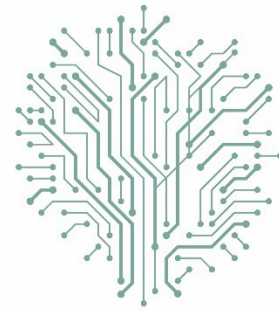
Acknowledgment: © John Bell

<https://open.spotify.com/track/0MXF8sxW0k2QYrSEaSeeUz?si=f2af240172764cfd>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Lord 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

**Luke 8: 26-39
Pentecost 2**

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

Let us get into the boat and sail across the lake to
the other side, said Jesus.

As we gather here today, let us sail across to
discover something new, to listen and be
confronted, to sit beside and enter into a deeper
faith.

Lord Jesus, come amongst us in this time of
Christian community, awaken us to wonder,
confront us where we see no hope, and shape our
lives anew.

We confess the inner struggles we cling to and the
way we have not loved you or neighbour.

[silence]

With you is forgiveness and the way of life. Let us
hear once more Lord, that in you we are forgiven.

Praise to you Lord God.

Amen.

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.

Music for Reflection

Deep Peace

Bill Douglass: Band Camp

<https://heartsofspacerrecords.bandcamp.com/album/deep-peace>

The Word around the Bush

Luke 8: 26-39. (Also Psalm 42)

Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac

²⁶ Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me' — ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen

it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

- Where do you see this account from Luke reflected in our modern world, or in your community, or lives?
- What did you hear in the message 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

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
3 My tears have been my food
day and night,

while people say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'

Yet we pray, in the presence of the living God.