

We give thanks for God's goodness that flows and for the eternal presence of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks for Christ who reminds us of love and grace, light and life. We give thanks for the hand that reaches out to us and others with grace.

Lord, help us and our world to hold onto light that comes out of darkness, hope that grows amongst struggle, faith that shines amongst doubt and goodness where there is pain.

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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Closing Responses & Blessing

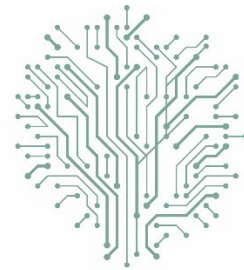
Go out along the way, the path less travelled,  
to be offerers of peace, and announcers of the  
nearness of God and the way of Christ.

Holy One, bless us and the people we meet along the  
way.

Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

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SALT BUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 10: 25-37  
Pentecost 5

### 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

Come and let us gather and may our doors be open to  
welcome and to live out hospitality. To Bind up  
wounds and live out hope.

Come and let us gather and may our hands be open to  
offer peace. To step out into the unknown and risk  
for peace.

Come Lord and gather with us so that we know your  
welcome to all people. Along the paths of our lives,  
you long for all humanity.

Come Lord and gather with us, in stillness, in silence,  
alone or alongside others, in chaos, in doubt, that we  
may know the Kingdom of God has drawn near.

**Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Circle me O God. John Coleman  
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/circle-me>

## 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

**Luke 10: 25-37.**

### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 26 He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' 27 He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' 28 And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' 30 Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' 37 He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- What is the challenge from the Word today?
- What do you think about the beaten and wounded man being the Christ and what does that say about the parable?
- What do you think about the comments about "being good" in today's message?

## 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

We give thanks for God's presence within and around all life. In that presence we bring our prayer.

We pray for people who can see little goodness and hope and who need a hand of healing, of acceptance, of hope placed upon them.  
[silence or your own prayers]

We confess the ease with which we withdraw our hands away from others as the priest and the Levite in today's parable. [silence or your own prayers]

We pray for people who long to be heard, to raise their voice, for justice and a place at the tables of life.  
[silence or your own prayer]

We confess where and how we have kept our tables small and lean. [silence or your own prayer]

We confess the ways we are as much possessed by our possessions as we possess them.  
[silence or your own prayer]

We pray for people throughout the world who are told that no good thing can come in life.  
[silence or your own prayer]