

We see the faces of our political leaders, and we pray for them.

We see the faces of our own aboriginal people, and we pray for them.

We see the faces of the Christian church, and we pray for them.

We see the faces of people within our own church, and we pray for them.

We see the faces of people we know who are sick, or sad, or who are weeping, and we pray for them.

We see the faces of our families, the people we love and struggle to love, and we pray for them.

We see our own faces, and we pray for ourselves.

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all people and all faces, in all places, gather us to yourself, and inspire us to live our own prayers, that there would be peace, that our world would be hope-filled, that there would be justice and mercy, that there would be wholeness, and that within this world, there would be faithfulness.

Lord Jesus Christ, let ours be your peace.

We pray.

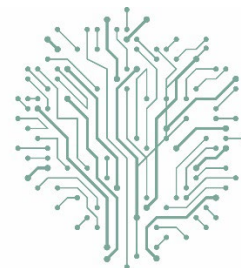
Closing Responses & Blessing

Go out into the world,
To love and serve the 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 15: 1-10
Pentecost 14 - Lost

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

All together you can respond: "We give thanks!"

Creator, out of your breath and being comes life, and it is good. For life, colour, names, light, beauty, fragility, **we give thanks**. For water, eternity, love, birth, desert, mountain, **we give thanks**. For creatures great and small, flower and field, forest shoots and blossoming gums, for male and female, **we give thanks**.

For the ways you long and search for us, and others, we are thankful. **We give thanks**.

As we gather here, one with the other, touch us in your Spirit with wonder and awe. We pray.
Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: **Quietly Quietly Be...**

Acknowledgment: © John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/quietly-be>

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 15: 1-10

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

3 So he told them this parable: 4 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Do we believe our understandings and images of God are complete?
- How do you/we perceive the searching, longing God in our own lives and world?
- What will you take with you from today's conversation and Word around the Bush?

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

Give a brief moment of silence between each line.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all, you come amongst us, into our days, our fears, our rooms, our gatherings and you see our faces, our lives.

And as we gather here today, a community of faithful, we pray to you for your people and the faces we see.

We see the faces of men and women imprisoned or oppressed and we pray for them.

We see the faces of women who struggle to care for their families, and we pray for them.

We see the faces of children who are hungry and who are alone, and we pray for them.

We see the faces of men who struggle to provide and wonder about their lives, and we pray for them.

We see the faces of women who work long and hard for little money, and we pray for them.