

## Prayers for Others

We pray in your presence O God, who came amongst humanity in the form of a baby, and whose love is beyond measure.

God of the epiphany, those moments of clarity, of calling, of vision and hope.

We pray for epiphanies of Peace in our world.

[silence]

We pray for epiphanies of hope and love where people are downtrodden and forgotten.

[silence]

We pray for people we know who need a God presence in their lives; a joy, a calm, a clearness of mind, the hand of Christ upon them.

[silence]

We pray for ourselves, who so easily forget the hand of Christ upon us. Let us see our God, with us, before us, the epiphanal God reaching out to us.

[silence]

We give thanks amongst your people, O God, for your presence and way that leads us on and let us open ourselves, our church, to be as salt amongst others.

These are our prayers. Amen.

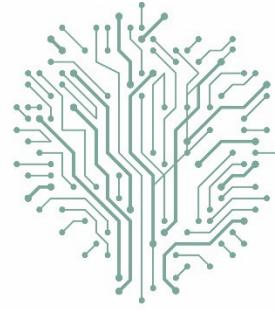
## Closing Responses & Blessing

You are the salt of the earth. Rise up and go out, as people who have heard, known, seen the Christ amongst us, inviting us along the way.

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**

**Matthew 5: 13-20  
Epiphany 5 – Salt of the Earth**

### 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.

### Gathering Prayer

God comes amongst us in ways unexpected.  
God comes amongst us in moments extraordinary.  
God comes amongst us and dwells beside us,  
God with us.

Let us pray.

We give thanks for the birth of Jesus, his life, his call, his way amongst humanity. We give thanks that in moments of wonder, wise travellers, fishermen, women alongside, seekers and questioners, saw in his life, the way of God amongst us. As we come here today, open our eyes and minds Lord, that we too, would in wonder be open to you once more.

We pray. **Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: Shine upon us.... @John Coleman  
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/shine-on-us>

## Prayer of Confession

We draw ourselves into confession for our world, our communities, our church, ourselves and the ways we have not loved you Lord, and not loved others as ourselves.

[silence]

Lord with you is forgiveness and life. Let us hear your words of forgiveness spoken to us and our world and may we be thankful in your presence. Go, your sin is forgiven. **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

Suggested Song: Christ before me  
©Malcom Gordon  
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2>

## The Law and the Prophets

17 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,[a] not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks[b] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

(Exploring life and faith together)

- What do you think about the church being... “the salt of the earth”?
- Is your church salty?
- What thoughts do you have from the message today and the reading in Matthew.?

## 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.

## The Word around the Bush

**Matthew 5: 13-20.**

### Salt and Light

13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.