

As you love those around us, we pray for people we are thinking of at this time, people who sit on our hearts and minds, and we pray for the Spirit, like water, upon them.

[silence – or spoken prayers]

And for us we pray, like searchers in the night, drawing ourselves to the Christ. We pray for ourselves in the quiet moment of this time.

[silence – or spoken prayers]

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

Suggested song: Revealing the Holy

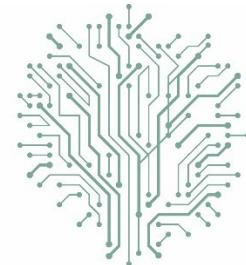
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<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/revealing-the-holy>

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*

**John 3: 1-17
Lent 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

As Nicodemus came at night; so we come to worship. Seeking. Asking. Listening.
Let us have ears to listen and broad minds to hear.

As Nicodemus knew God in Jesus and pondered life in the Spirit, so we come as followers of God, Jesus, Spirit.
Let us open ourselves to be born anew.

As Nicodemus walked the way of Christ, present in his life and death, so let us in this time of Lent walk again together the way of Christ.
Let us walk the way of Christ, drawing closer to the cross as people of God.

Let us draw ourselves into silent prayer and confession.

[silence]

Let us hear that we are forgiven in Christ. Lord, touch us once more with your peace and presence we pray.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Always there...

Acknowledgment: © John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/always-there>

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 21: 5-19

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' 3 Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' 4 Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' 5 Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' 9 Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' 10 Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you[g] do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.'

16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'

17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What did you hear in today's Word Around the Bush?
- What do you understand by the words... "you must be born from above".
- What are your thoughts about the conversation Jesus has with Nicodemus? Remember there are no right or wrong thoughts!

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

Eternal God, draw near to us as we enter into our prayers, our thoughts, our silence.

Let the Spirit like water wash around and within us and draw our prayer to yourself.

As you loved the world as creator, in Christ, through your Spirit, so we pray for our world.
[silence – or spoken prayers]

As you love the people of all nations and places and ways, so we pray for people we have read of, or heard of, throughout the world.

[silence – or spoken prayers]