

Closing Responses & Blessing

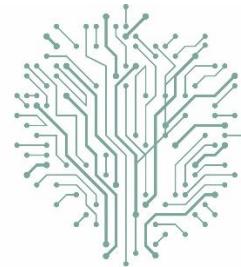
Blessed are we when we walk in the way of Jesus. May we live the blessing we have received.

Go now as people who are blessed; poor in spirit, gentle in heart, hungry for justice, makers of peace.

May God's Kingdom be yours, today and always.

Amen.

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 5: 1-12
Blessed Are the Unimpressive

Welcome

Welcome and greet your congregation and/or faith community.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves of God's grace, which serves as the illuminating light of the world.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of these lands and waters where we meet, the _____ Nation (of the _____ peoples).

We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, and to all descendants of this/these nations who have cared for this place since creation.

We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples here today.

Stuart McMillan
Assembly Consultant Covenanting Assembly Resourcing Unit

Music for Reflection

Suggested song:

Laura Story

Blessings

<https://open.spotify.com/track/0gl1wucmc2djsV3e25LqCd>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 5: 1-12

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Which Beatitude do you find most challenging or surprising, and why?
- What might it look like to live one Beatitude this week at work, home, or in the congregation/community?
- How do the Beatitudes reshape our ideas of success, strength, and happiness?

Where do they challenge the values of our culture or our own expectations?

Silence

Please take a moment to find a comfortable position and prepare yourself for five minutes of complete silence. Gently close your eyes and allow yourself to relax, while remaining fully present and aware of your surroundings.

Prayers of Confession and For Others

Gracious God,
Forgive us when our lives do not reflect your kingdom.

Empty us of pride, soften our hearts,
and teach us again to hunger and thirst for righteousness.
By your mercy, restore us,
and lead us in the way of Jesus.

God of Blessing,
we pray for those who are poor in spirit—
all who feel weary, overwhelmed, or forgotten.

We pray for those who mourn,
for the grieving, the displaced, the lonely,
and all who long for comfort.

We pray for the meek and the gentle,
for those whose voices are ignored,
and for children and young people learning who they are.

We pray for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for peacemakers, truth-seekers, and those working for justice.

Bless those who are persecuted for doing what is right,
and strengthen your church to live the Beatitudes with courage and grace.

We ask this in the hope of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.