

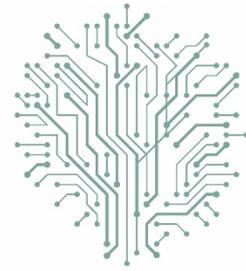
## Closing Responses & Blessing

God who draws us to the wilderness to discover you  
and our own identity in the hard places and times

Send us out sustained, shielded and fed by your hand to  
be people of the journey

To offer hope when all seems lost,  
To live love when all have left  
To give thanks and praise in all things

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

Deuteronomy 32: 10-18  
Desert/Wilderness.

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

In a howling wilderness waste,  
God called Abram and Sari, Jacob and Rebecca, Moses  
and Miriam to discover God, to find a new land and a  
new identity.

The Australian landscape and wild places shapes us too  
and God still calls... follow me.

**And we remember the wilderness God created,  
the wild places on Earth,**

The worlds of wonder and mystery,  
and the distant Dreamings of the Outback.

**We remember the vast landscape of Australia, the  
mystery of caves and wild creatures in the mountains.**

We remember and rejoice.

**Thank you, God, for the Outback,  
the wilderness places that stir us with wonder and in  
our contemplation of you.**

**Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [What we must learn](#)

John Coleman ©2012 [Songs of Wind and Water](#),  
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/what-we-must-learn>

## 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

**Deuteronomy 32: 10-18**

He sustained him in a desert land,  
in a howling wilderness waste;  
he shielded him, cared for him,  
guarded him as the apple of his eye.  
<sup>11</sup> As an eagle stirs up its nest,  
and hovers over its young;  
as it spreads its wings, takes them up,  
and bears them aloft on its pinions,  
<sup>12</sup> the Lord alone guided him;  
no foreign god was with him.  
<sup>13</sup> He set him atop the heights of the land,  
and fed him with produce of the field;  
he nursed him with honey from the crags,  
with oil from flinty rock;  
<sup>14</sup> curds from the herd, and milk from the flock,  
with fat of lambs and rams;  
Bashan bulls and goats,  
together with the choicest wheat—  
you drank fine wine from the blood of grapes.  
<sup>15</sup> Jacob ate his fill;  
Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked.  
You grew fat, bloated, and gorged!  
He abandoned God who made him,  
and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.  
<sup>16</sup> They made him jealous with strange gods,  
with abhorrent things they provoked him.  
<sup>17</sup> They sacrificed to demons, not God,  
to deities they had never known,  
to new ones recently arrived,  
whom your ancestors had not feared.  
<sup>18</sup> You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you;  
you forgot the God who gave you birth.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

● I wonder what you have heard and thought from the Word today?

● I wonder what you heard in the Word for our church?

● What one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?

## Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

● You may like to say the prayer phrase “Mar-an-ath-a” (which means come Lord). Say this as four syllables. Do not try to think or imagine anything. If thoughts or distractions come simply return to saying the word.

● Or you may like “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,  
where there is hope, you are there.  
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.  
Where there is the struggle for peace, you are there.  
Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.  
Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.  
Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In you is such longing for your creation, and for humanity, and we thank you for that presence of you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and saving.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.

● O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:

[\[Silence for personal prayer or invite others to open prayer in between each\]](#)

Your creation ...

*Silence*

For others we have heard about throughout our world

...

*Silence*

For other people we know and are close to ...

*Silence*

For our church and our wider community ...

*Silence*

For ourselves ...

*Silence*