

[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*

## Closing Responses & Blessing

We have received the light of God  
in the words of scripture,  
in the faithful witness of our sisters and brothers,  
in the music of our voices.

Go now to share this light  
in words of peace  
in the witness of love  
in the sharing of wealth  
and in the joy of good news  
that announces the kingdom of heaven has drawn  
near.  
Amen.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.  
Father,  
Son  
and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

This Tiny Light  
Darkness came, couldn't hold it at bay  
Tried and I tried to keep it away  
My sources of light they sank down one by one  
Alone in the night no sign of the sun

I cried out for help but no God came  
Where my old life had been - nothing remained  
So I let go, too tired to hold on  
Fell into the void - I was done

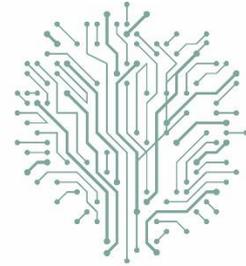
When I came face to face with the end of me  
Turned out that Love wasn't finished with me  
Found a flickering flame right here in my heart  
The tiniest light but it drives back the dark

I walked by the light in my heart for a way  
Through the black, no sign of day  
Then pale blue light in the east growing strong  
Gave outline to trees and drew butcherbird's song

I don't want to go through that shadow again  
I remember too well the particular pain  
But now - I know that the darkness of night  
Can never defeat - this tiny light  
Tiny light - tiny light - tiny light

Words and music by Celia Kemp and John Coleman

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SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 4: 12-25  
Jesus Begins Ministry

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Inviting God,  
you call us to follow in many ways.  
You call some of us to witness with public deeds of  
justice,  
and you call some of us to do the quiet work of  
companionship.  
You call some of us to proclaim your truth in  
stirring speeches,  
and some to sing your love in gentle lullabies.

Invite us to follow you  
by respecting the many different ways of witness,  
and rejoicing that we have so many chances to  
answer your call.

Call us now in all our diversity to come and  
worship you.  
**Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [This Tiny Light](#)

[heard a rumour](#), released September 30, 2018

© Words and music by Celia Kemp and John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/this-tiny-light>

## 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

### Matthew 4: 12-25

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of  
death

light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim,  
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come  
near.”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

<sup>23</sup> Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news<sup>[d]</sup> of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. <sup>25</sup> And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

## 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: