

Let us do your will,
standing up when all are sitting down,
and rising our voice when all are silent.

You are giving us our daily bread
in the song of the bird
and the miracle of the (wheat).

Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of
injustice;
and for burying our dreams
for not sharing bread and wine,
love and the land among us, now.

Don't let us fall into the temptation
of shutting the door through fear;
of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice;
of taking up the same arms as the enemy.
But deliver us from evil.

Give us the perseverance and solidarity
to look for love,
even if the path has not yet been trodden,
even if we fall;
so we shall have known your kingdom
which is being built for ever and ever.

(Central American Lord's Prayer. Page 63 – Bread for Tomorrow: 2004. Ed. Janet Morley)

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:
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

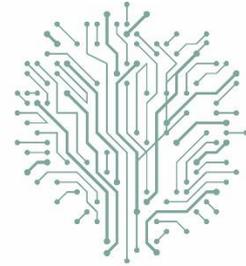
Closing Responses & Blessing

Let us rise to love.
Let us leave in peace.
Let us listen with wisdom above law.
Let us offer freedom above rule.
Let us be a people of life, within and around.

**We leave and go out into the world as God's
people. Bless us and the people we meet along
the way. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

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Saltbush Community Ministers



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 3: 1-17
Lent 2. Nicodemus & Jesus

Welcome

[An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering](#)

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: [Revealing the Holy](#)

@John Coleman

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

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

John 3: 1-17.

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 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

- In what ways are you like Nicodemus?
- 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

Our Father, who is in us here on earth,
holy is your name
in the hungry who share their bread
and their song.

Your Kingdom come, which is a generous land
which flows with milk and honey.