

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

The world is often found by passing through the wilderness.

Go in courage because Christ has walked that way before us.

May truth shine as a star in the night sky,
righteousness shout its freedom into the centre of our confusions
and God be in our beginning,
our centre and our endings. ¹

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,

Son

and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

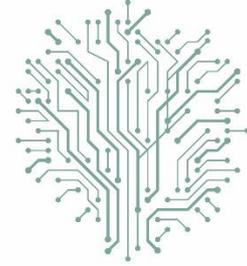
And the desert was silent and indifferent
And the sky stretched silver blue so wide
and indifferent
My ears were hearing nothing
Nothing, nothing – so I walked
Though my head it was buzzing
My ears were hearing nothing and I walked
And I walked - I could hear nothing
Indifference

Red rock, blue sky, dingo, dragonfly
Songlines, smashed glass, burning bush, buffel grass
Waterhole, white bone, bloodwood, orange stone
Rusted can, busted tyre, day cloud, night fire
I could hear nothing – nothing
Indifference

Cracked earth, cockatoo, spinifex, kangaroo
Caterpillar, crested pigeon, sacred rock, old religion
Lizard track, burnt car, crescent moon, morning star
Trail bike, creek bed, wildflower, angel bread
My head it was buzzing, my ears were hearing nothing
So I walked and I walked
Indifference

Days and months and years went by
I was falling from my head into my heart
One day I lay in a dry creek bed
And the rocks - were crying love
And the sky was crying love
Ghost gum raised its shiny arms in praise
And the rocks were crying love
Love like lightning blazing from the earth
And the sky was crying love
Love like fire catching in the leaves
And the rocks - were crying love
And then Love swept over me

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Saltbush Community Ministers
1. Dorothy McRae-McMahon: page 52
Liturgies for High Days



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 4: 1-11.
Jesus in the Wilderness
Lent 1

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Journeying in earthiness writ large,
living deeply within our honest searchings,
immersed in rawness of our temptations:
The Christ holds the faith in fragile arms

Standing in the wilderness, surrounded by our
toughest questions and human in very struggling
way:

**The Christ walks with life wide open ahead of us;
truly human, truly God, trustworthy in life and
trustworthy in death. ¹**

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [The Desert was Silent](#)

Heard a Rumour © 2018 [John Coleman and Celia Kemp](#)

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/heard-a-rumour>

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: 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

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.

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

Your creation ... *Silence*