

Holy Spirit, storm and breath of love;
bridge-builder, eye-opener,
waker of the oppressed,
unseen and unexpected,
untameable energy of life -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for other people we know and are
close to ...

Silence

Holy Trinity, forever one,
whose nature is community;
source of all sharing,
in whom we love, and meet, and know our
neighbour:
life in all its fullness, making all things new:
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for our church, our wider
community and for ourselves ...

Silence

Hear all these our prayers who sends us out
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

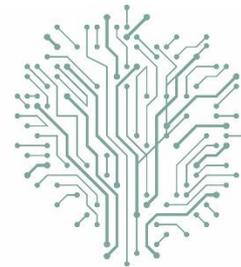
Adapted from - Brian Wren, Christian Aid Prayers, 1980.
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/church-seasons.aspx>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go our into the world,
To love and serve the Lord.

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

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23.
The Sower

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Eternal God, gather us from across the land
Into one place through faith and Spirit.
Lord we are your people; gather us.
Lord we are your people; gather us.

Gather us from the pathways and highways,
from our comfort, from our pain,
from those places where we hide
and those places where we know your presence.
Lord we are your people; gather us.
Lord we are your people; gather us.

As we are drawn together in faith,
So come together with us Lord,
Within our homes, within our Saltbush
community, within those beside us or those whose
faces are before us.
Lord we are your people; gather with us.
Lord we are your people; gather with us.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Come come come...](#)

Acknowledgment: © 2020 A pocket full of stones Malcom
Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/album/a-pocketful-of-smooth-stones>

Lord we are your people,
Where our burdens are heavy, lighten the load.
Where we are weary, rest our souls.
To you we confess our sin and cling to your
forgiveness.

silence

Lord we are your people; gather with us.
Lord we are your people; gather with us.

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 13: 1-9, 18-23.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat
beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered
around him that he got into a boat and sat there,
while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And
he told them many things in parables, saying:
“Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he
sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds
came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky
ground, where they did not have much soil, and
they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of
soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched;
and since they had no root, they withered away. 7
Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns
grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on
good soil and brought forth grain, some a
hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 Let anyone
with ears[a] listen!

18 “Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 When
anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does
not understand it, the evil one comes and
snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is
what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was
sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears
the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21
yet such a person has no root, but endures only
for a while, and when trouble or persecution
arises on account of the word, that person
immediately falls away.[c] 22 As for what was
sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the
word, but the cares of the world and the lure of
wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23
But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the
one who hears the word and understands it, who
indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a
hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another
thirty.”

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Where do you see yourself in today’s parable of
the sower?
- 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

Living Love,
beginning and end,
giver of food and drink,
clothing and warmth,
love and hope:
life in all its goodness -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for your creation ...
Silence

Jesus, wisdom and word;
lover of outcasts,
friend of the poor;
one of us yet one with God;
crucified and risen:
life in the midst of death -
we praise and adore you.
Hear our prayer for others we have heard about
throughout our world ...
Silence