



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

For You Deep Stillness of the Silent Inland  
For you deep stillness of the silent inland  
For you deep blue of the desert sky  
For you flame ed of the rocks and stones  
For you sweet water from hidden springs  
From the edges seek the heartlands  
And when your burnt by the journey  
May the cool winds of the hovering Spirit soothe and  
replenish you.  
In the name of Christ, in the name of Christ.

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 10:24-39  
The Cost of Discipleship

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Suggested Greeting: Grace, hope and peace, in the name of God the Eternal presence, the Christ and the Holy Spirt.

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Holy one, come to us now. Be made present to us in our lives, in the ordinary, in the profound, in our joys and in our challenges.

Speak into our lives with your eternal wisdom, give us courage to speak out against injustice and to remain silent when we need to listen.

Gracious Companion, you are the core of our being the very ground of our existence. May our lives be honest expressions of your love, our actions clear movements of your purposes and our journey yoked with Christ. **Amen.**

### Music for Reflection

Song: [Break the Bread](#) Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/break-the-bread>

### 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 10:24-39** <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! <sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; <sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

## 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 Presence, Creator God, dwell deeply within us that we would know your truth, your love, your hope, your reign in our lives.

That our own lives reflect you and your hopes; refreshing relationships, communities and your creation.

As you dwell within us Holy Presence may we know the sacred life you call us to, that we are made in your image and we acknowledge your image in all we meet.

At this time we bring you our prayers.

- 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*

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Benediction: Go in faith as images of the Living God! And may God, the eternal loving presence walk alongside you. God in Christ be your constant guide.

The Holy Spirit nurture, encourage and lead you to truth.

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

**Closing Song:** [For you Deep Stillness](#)

Robin Mann: All together Whatever and Let’s sing it Again.

