

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go forth knowing that you are part of God's family.
Go forth proclaiming the praises of God.
Go forth in the assurance that Christ is always with us.
Go forth to bring the kingdom of God wherever you are. 1.

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

Slow Action of Love

There's a slow action of love (you know it)
It's as strong as a mountain' sea
And the slow action of love
Is heating like a heart in you and me.

There's a slow action of love
Faithful as the moon and the tide
There's a slow action of love
Tender as a start against the sky

When we know - we are loved
Just as we are – surely we are free

For the slow action of love
Each heart held in a community of hands
And the slow action of love
Is calling, inviting me to stand

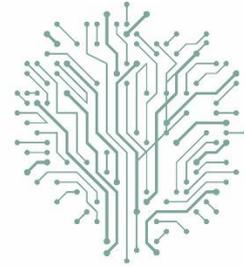
When we know - we are loved
Just as we are – surely we are free
For the slow action of love
The slow action of love.

The slow action of love
Breath of God like a whisper a wave
The slow action of love
Words of hope become our song of praise
The slow action of love
The slow action of love.

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SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52
Mustard Seeds and Yeast

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Ps 105:

Praise the Lord!

We gather to sing praises to God.

Praise the Lord!

We gather to give thanks for all God has done in our lives.

Praise the Lord!

We gather to worship our creator, redeemer, and sustainer.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Listen God is Calling](#)

Acknowledgment: ©WOOD LAKE PUBLISHING INC. Seasons of the Spirit. Listen God is calling

<https://www.seasonsonline.ca/search/results/inventory/Seasons-of-the-Spirit-Music/Seasons-Music-Volume-2/Seasons-Vol-2-CD>

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: 31-33, 44-52

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

The Parable of the Yeast

33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with[a] three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Three Parables

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Slow Action of Love](#)

Acknowledgment: ©2008. John Coleman. *Slow Action of Love*
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/slow-action-of-love>