

Closing Responses & Blessing

Jesus you calm the waves and the winds that blow us back and forth in midst of our chaotic lives.

Lift us above the waters of unbelief to be sent out into the world to trust the presence of the Spirit to give us discernment, courage, and help as we seek to work toward God's kingdom of heaven.

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

THE DESERT WAS SILENT
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

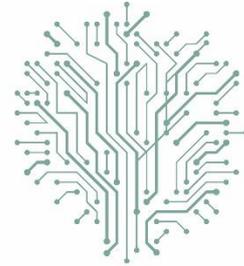
Red rock, blue sky, dingo, dragonfly
Songlines, smashed glass, burning bush, buffell grass
Waterhole, white bone, bloodwood, orange stone
Rusted can, busted tyre, day cloud, night fire
I could hear nothing – nothing
Indifference

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

Celia Kemp and John Coleman © 2018

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SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 14: 22-33
Jesus Walks On Water

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 Spirit.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Jesus, the one who comes to us in the middle of storms and trials.

Jesus, the one who send us to other sides amidst the chaos of the world.

Call us to you across the waters and the waves of our doubts and concerns.

To live as disciples in midst of the world trusting in your presence and enabling Spirit.

Lifting us up to declare alongside the disciples "Truly you are the Son of God"

Amen.

Music for Reflection

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

Acknowledgment: Celia Kemp and John Coleman © 2018

[STONES THAT SING](#), released June 26, 2020

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/the-desert-was-silent-2>

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 14: 22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

[Come now breath of Life](#)

Acknowledgment: [Songs for the Saints](#), May 30, 2016

Music and lyrics by Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/come-now-breath-of-life>