

Closing Responses & Blessing

Jesus, you ask us—
'who do you say I am?'
Help us know you.
Grow our understanding of who you are,
what you stand for,
and what you require of us.

Binding what's unjust in the world and losing what is
life giving
Let your Kingdom be born in us;
and through us be born into our world 1.

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

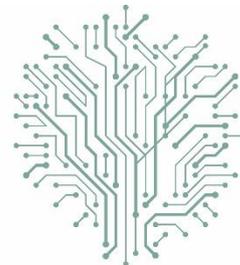
Our God of hope - help us to dream
Beyond the shores - of where we've been
Our God of light - of brave new life
Our living stream - help us to dream

With the rich and the refugee (carry the dream)
With the lost on an angry sea (carry the dream)
With the prisoner in front of me
Carry the dream
With the brave on the freedom march (carry the dream)
With the tired and cold of heart (carry the dream) With the
poet who strikes the spark
Carry the dream
With the prophets who shake the door (carry the dream)
Who speak of love as the higher law (carry the dream) With
every pilgrim who came before
Carry the dream

Our God of flight - free us to fly
Beyond the fear - that chain's so tight
Our God of spring - sweet earth's release
Help us to dream - our God of peace

refrain

Our God of hope - help us to dream
Beyond the shores - of where we've been
Our God of light - of brave new life
Our living stream - help us to dream
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SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 16: 13-20
"Who do you say that I am?"

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

In the name of the Lord Jesus
the bread breaker, the light gatherer
cross carrier
Welcome

May the peace of the Lord Jesus
the peace maker and the temple disturber
friend of the sinner and companion on the road
Be with us all

Let us draw close to the Lord Jesus
the saviour, the healer
the teacher and worship him

and ask ourselves
who do we say he is? 1.
Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Christ Before Me](#)
Acknowledgment: ©Malcolm Gordon [Into the deep](#) April 15, 2013
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-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 16: 13-20

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock[c] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was[d] the Messiah.

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: [Carry the Dream](#)

Acknowledgment: © 2012 John Coleman. Songs of Wind and Water
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/carry-the-dream>