

START FROM WHERE YOU ARE

I see you sitting in your room
You're thinking: what kind of world is this?
Peace is like the stars - seems so far away.

Why don't you start from where you are, do what you can do.
There's a whole lot of changes that can only start from you.
You may be only small, of everyone the least
But yours could be the milligram that tips the scales to peace
And yours could be the all important patch of ground
Where first we gained a foothold and turned the world around.

I know the news is mostly bad -
This world it seems a sad old place.
Peace is on the run - are we in a losing race?

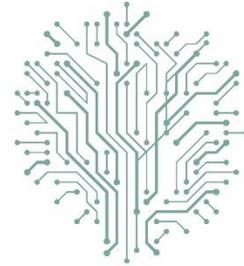
Why don't you start from where you are, do what you can do.
The most important changes have started with a few.
If you use the skills you have, hope will find release.
If you join your hope to others' hope the movement will increase
All round the world there's people choosing to believe
That peace might just be possible - you don't have to naive.
Why don't you start from where you are
Do what you can do today.

You hear a million words a day -
They're selling you the same old lie.
But peace is like the pearl money cannot buy.

Why don't you start from where you are, do what you can do.
There's a different way of thinking, very old but ever new:
Share the things we have, love our enemy
Yes, calling from the centre, the God of life decrees
The little child is more important than the king
And until we start to act that way we're just dangling from a string.
Why don't we start from where we are
Do what we can do today.

Words and music by Peter Kearney

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©
2020 Saltbush Community Ministers



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 16:17-28
Imagine Greater

Welcome

[An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering](#)
Centring words: God is neither shocked or disturbed by our imperfections. God, who is already familiar with our ways, has called us to this place.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Eternal Creator, we see your beauty and love throughout all of creation. We feel your presence in the love we share with others, in the gentle breeze, in your words from Scripture and in the still small voice of the Spirit. With Jesus we journey, as he calls us to imagine greater than our present circumstance. To deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him. In Christ we pray, Amen.

Music for Reflection

[Meet me in the Middle of the Air](#)
Paul Kelly and Friends
<https://youtu.be/g34-nB3oym4>

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 16:17-28

¹⁷And 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. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I 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." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. ²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Song

[Start from Where We are](#)

Peter Kearney

<https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/40-start-from-where-you-are>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Benediction: Go in faith as images of the Living God! Imagine greater, speak and act as people of the Kingdom of 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**