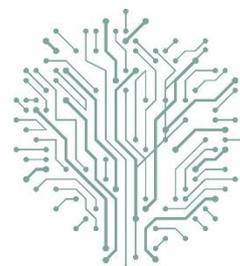


For You Deep Stillness of the Silent Inland

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland.
For you, deep blue of the desert skies.
For you, flame red 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.

Robin Mann and Julie Perrin



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 3:13-4:1 Romans 8:18-27
Season of Creation 3
Outback: Sacred Spaces

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

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rocks, the deserts and the wild world of the Outback. Help us empathise with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the wild world of the Outback. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen. (Season of Creation 3: UCA Synod Vic/Tas)

Music for Reflection

Bayini

Gurrumul - Rrakala

<https://gurrumul.bandcamp.com/track/bayini>

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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 3:13-4:1

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."
4Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

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

O God our creator, whose good earth is entrusted to our care and delight and tenderness, we pray:
For all who are in captivity to debt, whose lives are cramped by fear from which there is no turning except through abundant harvest.

Silence

May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy.

For all who depend on the earth
for their daily food and fuel,
whose forests are destroyed
for the profits of a few.

Silence

May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy.

For all who labour in poverty,
who are oppressed by unjust laws,
who are banned for speaking the truth,
who long for a harvest of justice.

Silence

May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy.

For all who are in captivity
to greed and waste and boredom,
whose harvest joy is choked
with things they do not need.

Silence

May those who sow in tears,
reap with shouts of joy.

Turn us again from our captivity
and restore our vision,
that our mouth may be filled with laughter
and our tongue with singing.

Janet Morley – Till All Creation Sings, 1989

Song

[For you Deep Stillness](#)

Robin Mann and Julie Perrin

Closing Responses & Blessing

Benediction:

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the impulse of Christ within you.

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

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

Amen