

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

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Hallelujah – Psalm 148](#)

All Creatures – Rain for Roots

<https://rainforroots.bandcamp.com/track/hallelujah-psalm-148-feat-flo-paris>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Holy One, Creator God, continue to create in us as we
go from here into our days and weeks.

Create in us love outwards.

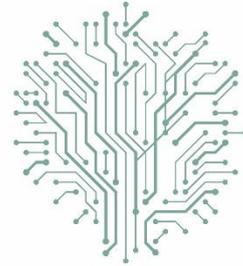
Create in us a deeper reverence for your presence.

Create in us peace.

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

Amen

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Genesis 2: 4b – 10, 15 – 23.
The Forest & Creation

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

Creator, out of your breath and being comes life, and it is good. For life, colour, names, light, beauty, fragility, **we give thanks**. For water, eternity, love, birth, desert, mountain, **we give thanks**. For creatures great and small, flower and field, forest shoots and blossoming gums, for male and female, **we give thanks**.

As we gather here, one with the other, touch us in your Spirit with wonder and awe. We pray. **Amen**.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [All things bright and beautiful](#)

All Creatures – Rain for Roots

<https://rainforroots.bandcamp.com/track/all-things-bright-and-beautiful-feat-sandra-mccracken>

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

Genesis 2: 4b – 10, 15-23.

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; 6 but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” 19 So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

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.