

Christ, be our light!

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness,
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

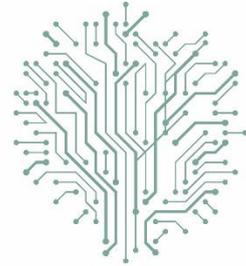
2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others
walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servant to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 25:1-13.
Be Awake to the Kingdom
Now!

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. But when we fall asleep.
Awaken us to your life within us, to your will and
purpose. May we remain aware of your reign to
come and your reign in our present. Through Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Music for Reflection

[Maranatha \(Come Lord\)](#) by Lisa Gerrard
<https://youtu.be/Uz1bzN7C2A8>

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 25:1-13

25“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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 purposes, your will; 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

[Christ be our Light](#)

<https://open.spotify.com/track/1fDqIU9F9IzXbSQEq1i1dl>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go into the world, awake to the presence and the movement of God the Creator, Redeemer and Encourager.

Go knowing the freedom of God’s grace moving throughout all time, all people and all creation.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way
Father

Son

And Holy Spirit.