

For our church and our wider community ... Silence

For ourselves ... Silence

Closing Responses & Blessing

Generous God,

who gives talents and gifts
for the building up of the kingdom.

Send us now to use those talents and gifts in ways
that work for the interests of God to be realised in our
lives and the people we encounter.

And Bless us and the people we meet along the way

Father,

Son

and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Open our Eyes:

Open our eyes Lord

Let us see

You are our hope Lord

You have set us free

These are the words

Passed down from your lips

We are joining the songs that you sing

Help us to hear

The truth that you speak

May it be in the words that we bring

Spirit guide us

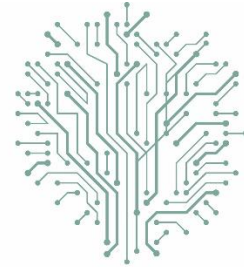
Our hearts are open

Jesus teach us

In you we're growing

Written by Zoe Henderson and Katie Lee.

Performed by Lydia Cole from



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 25: 14-30
Parable of the Talents

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Faithful steward, you bless us with gifts
that are uniquely our own.

We long to use the talents you bestow upon us
to build your kingdom.

We yearn to live with gratitude

for all that you have done for us

and the opportunities you place before us.

Clear our vision, Holy One,

and help us see the good we can do

with the gifts and talents we have received ¹.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Open Our Eyes](#)

Acknowledgment: Written by Zoe Henderson and Katie Lee.

Performed by Lydia Cole from [Songs for the Road](#), released July 1, 2014

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/open-our-eyes-zoe-henderson-and-katie-lee?token=EC-52J79637479043140>

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.

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies © 2020 Saltbush
Community Ministers

¹ Scifres, Mary, Beu, B. J.; The Abingdon Worship
Annual 2020:

² <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/> Rev
Donald Scott, Minister of Edinburgh Priestfield,

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 25: 14-30

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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

Loving Lord,
We give what we have.
We bring who we are.
Knowing that it can never be perfect and never enough.

Yet
We bring our talents.
The gifts You have given us
The people You have made us.

Knowing that You accept us and love us.
Use our lives and our living to build Your people.
Use Your people to build a better world
Use this world to show the beauty of life with You.

When we get complacent or downhearted teach us to count our blessings.
When we count our blessings,
teach us to pray for those who need Your blessing ².

● 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 hear about throughout our world
... Silence

For other people we know and are close to ... Silence