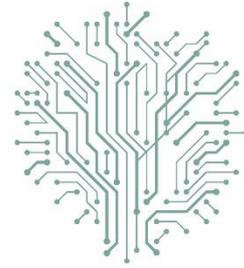


Closing Responses & Blessing

May the God of peace dwell deeply in your life.
May the Christ of hope lead you to a just future.
May the Spirit reveal joy and love in your days.
May you shine the Light of God in all you meet.
Father,
Son and
Holy Spirit. Amen.



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 1:6-8;19-28
The Light of God

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering
Centring words: The God whose expansive love flows through all the universe chooses also to be revealed in the least and the humble. Come, know God in your lives, through Christ. Amen

Responses & Gathering Prayer

God of Dreams, from times of old, you have done great things that move us to places of awe. Awaken us to the dawn of your glory. Fill our mouths with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy. Anoint us with your oil of gladness and give us a garland instead of ashes. May we be known among all people as oaks of righteousness, the plantings of the Lord. Amen (B.J.Beau The Abingdon Worship Annual)

Music for Reflection

Christ be our Light: PAX Community Folk Group
[Christ Be Our Light | PAX Community Folk Group \(bandcamp.com\)](https://www.bandcamp.com/album/christ-be-our-light)

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

John 1:6-8; 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 who Reigns with Christ, dwell deeply within us that we would know your truth, your love, your light, your reign in our lives. That our own lives reflect your light 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

Come thou long expected Jesus: Wilders Adkins- folk version.

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus | Wilder Adkins \(bandcamp.com\)](#)