

For our church and our wider community ...

Silence

For ourselves ...

Silence

Come amongst us once more, that we would be amazed at your presence, your hand upon us and our world, healing, renewing life, challenging and changing.

These are our prayers. Amen.

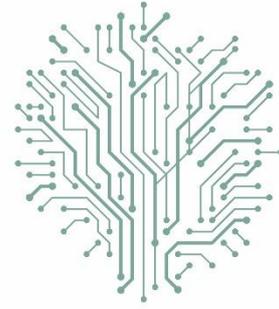
Closing Responses & Blessing

Rise up and go out, as people who have heard, known, seen the Christ amongst us, the God of longing and love, the Spirit blowing within and around.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen.



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Mark 1: 21-28
In Capernaum

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Gathering Prayer

“... when the Sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching...”

Let us open ourselves once more to the word, to Spirit, to action, as community, gathered around Christ.

Lord, open our ears and hearts to your word and presence, that planted once more, like a seed in the ground, we may be encouraged and given new life.

Open our lives and the life of our church community to your word and the way of your Kingdom.

Lord, open our spirits to your Spirit of blessing...

We pray.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: Lord of All

© Glenn Kaiser, All My Days.

<https://glennkaiser.bandcamp.com/album/all-my-days>

Prayer of Confession

We draw ourselves into confession for our world, our communities, our church, ourselves and the ways we have not loved you Lord, and not loved others as ourselves.

[silence]

Lord with you is forgiveness and life. Let us hear your words of forgiveness spoken to us and our world and may we be thankful in your presence. Go, your sin is forgiven. Amen.

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

Mark 1: 21-28.

They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 God,
where there is hope, you are there.
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.
Where there is the struggle for peace, you are there.
Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.
Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.
Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In you is such longing for your creation, and for humanity, and we thank you for that presence of you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and saving.

In that knowledge, and in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.

- O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:

Your creation ...

Silence

For others we have heard about throughout our world ...

Silence

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

Silence