

Closing Responses & Blessing

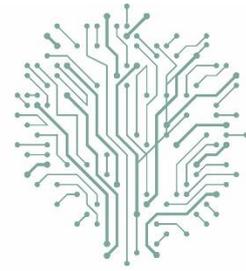
So let us be about the journey,
And walk towards the cross.

Let us be a people who see God in the places of
wilderness and Christ as the one who knows that
place too.

Let us be a people of the Spirit, who draws us on.

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: 9-15
Jesus in the Wilderness
Lent 1

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Today we begin the journey of Lent. This season of the journey towards Easter and the Cross of Jesus' dying. Today we enter into a wilderness time.

Earth. Rocks. Hunger.
Alone. Silence. Emptiness.
Fear. Abandonment. The Wilderness.

Lord, let us not rush beyond your times of abandonment and isolation and out of fear avoid the reality of the cross.

In your humanity, we see our own humanity.
In your wilderness, we know our own isolated and difficult places.
In your cross we see our own mortality.

Come amongst us now, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [The Desert was Silent](#)

Heard a Rumour © 2018 [John Coleman and Celia Kemp](#)

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/the-desert-was-silent-2>

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: 9-15

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.

Questions for conversation

- How do you hear the reading from Mark and what does the wilderness mean to you?
- 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

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

We pray for places where faithfulness struggles to survive.

Silence

We pray for places isolated, cut off, hard to bear and for those who find themselves there.

Silence

We pray for those who find themselves in a time of dying.

Silence

We pray for those who live with fear, loneliness, abandonment and pain.

Silence

We pray for our church where we fear truth, wilderness and change.

Silence

We pray for ourselves and others who sit on our hearts and minds.

Silence

And let us pray together.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours
now and for ever. Amen.**