



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Mark 6:14-29
A dangerous proclamation!

Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we share our lives with others.

Lighting of Christ Candle

God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ the light of the world. May the light shine for the hope of the world.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Eternal God of the Ages, you have been present with us since the dawning of time.

You have showered us throughout history with the blessings of your love, mercy and grace.

As we gather may we continue to be aware of your kingdom moving in our lives and in the world.

Holy Spirit, may we know your energy within us calling us to live our God's reign.

With John the Baptist may we know and proclaim your movement amongst all people.

In Christ, the one for whom our lives are held, we praise and worship you.

Song: [The Road Less Travelled](https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/the-road-less-travelled-2)

by John Coleman and Ian Bartle

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/the-road-less-travelled-2>

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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 6:14-29

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

Gracious God, we are often perplexed by the events of the world: on how the good and innocent suffer at the hands of despots and oppressors. Continue to speak into our lives your words of justice, truth and hope. Then may we speak and act your kingdom in the world, through Christ we pray, Amen.

(pause)

For those who are powerless and weighed down by the injustices they experience each day as they are judged by race, class and religion. **May we stand alongside them as one in Christ.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we know your Kingdom is for all creation and work for creations renewal.**

(pause)

We know you are with those who are experiencing difficult days in our communities, may we be free to share our lives with them also. **May our lives be an expression of your mercy and grace.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

Song for Reflection:

[How Long Must We Cry Out?](https://youtu.be/qJEDa6-0ISU) By Robin Mann
<https://youtu.be/qJEDa6-0ISU>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, knowing the Reign of God breaks forth in the world, proclaim God's presence, live as a child of God and be the people of hope, peace and love. In the name of the One who abides in us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless us and the people we meet along the way Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**