

Song for Reflection:

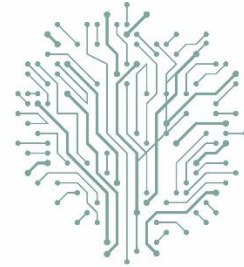
[Come to the Banquet](#) by Fay White
<https://youtu.be/czRLWLOoqj8>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, knowing the God of boundless love.
The one who shares our humanity, who knows the
core of our being and is grounded in the reality of our
lives.

And may your actions reflect a loving God, a
compassionate Christ, as the Spirit nurtures, sustains
and enlivens you.

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

John 6:1-21
A Grounded Christ

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

Loving God,
You sit with us in our times of need,
your words comfort us.
You walk alongside us in our days,
your company reassures us.
You share your life with us,
you are the bread that nourishes us.
When we are scared, confused or lost,
you say "Do not fear" for you our Lord are with us,
always. Amen.

Song:

[Jesus, Son of God and Man](#) by John Coleman
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/jesus-son-of-god-and-man>

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 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. ¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

Merciful Creator, we need to be nourished, we need to have courage, we need to share what we have, we need to be compassionate, we need to know you in our lives and we need to pray.

(pause)

For those who are crushed by the weight of fear and anxiety in their lives. **May they know your stillness and peace in their days.**

(pause)

For those whose poverty, ethnicity, gender or age means they are not heard or considered. **May they know you walk with them; may we also walk alongside.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we be co-creators that creation be renewed, a reflection of your boundless grace.**

(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 we share with them the abundance of your love.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.