



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 6:24-35  
The Work of God

### 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

Gracious eternal Creator,

We touch on your immensity as we gaze upon the night sky.

We are grounded in your embrace when we love and are shown love.

We are humbled by the work of your hands when we encounter in our lives the risen Christ, our bread of life.

**May we know your work in our lives, the work of your peace, the work of your grace and mercy, the work of your love found in person of the Jesus Christ and the outpouring of your Spirit. Amen**

### Song:

[Break the Bread by Malcolm Gordon](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/break-the-bread)

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/break-the-bread>

### 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 6:24-35

<sup>24</sup>So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

<sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” <sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup>They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

## 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, as you nurture our lives and grow us in your ways of wisdom and understanding through your Spirit and in the person of Jesus Christ, may we be always open to your leading and receptive of your grace. May we know your works in our life, through Christ. 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 work alongside you for the sake of justice and reconciliation.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we honour the work of your hands and work with you for the renewal of all creation.**

(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 all know your healing actions through the power of your Spirit.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

## Song for Reflection:

[I am the Bread of Life](#) sung by John Michael Talbot

<https://youtu.be/W4CapSBM8UA>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

May God the Creator reshape our hearts;  
may Christ Jesus, the bread of life, sustain us always;  
and may the Holy Spirit unite us in the bond of peace.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

(Nathan Nettleton: Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources)