

Closing Responses & Blessing

May the God who welcomes all people fill you with hope.

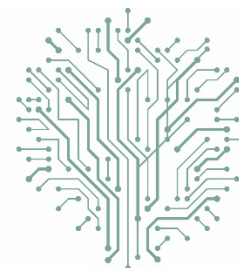
May Jesus Christ walk beside you.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you to live with compassion.

And may the blessing of God who is Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit:
Be with you and remain with you now and always.

Amen.

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 10: 40-42
Welcoming Christ Through Small Acts

Welcome

Today we gather as God's people to worship, pray, listen, and encourage one another. God welcomes us into God's presence with love and grace.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves of God's grace, which serves as the illuminating light of the world.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of these lands and waters where we meet, the _____ Nation (of the _____ peoples).

We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, and to all descendants of this/these nations who have cared for this place since creation.

We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples here today.

Stuart McMillan

Assembly Consultant Covenanting Assembly Resourcing Unit

Music for Reflection

Suggested song:

Refiners Fire

Vineyard Worship

<https://open.spotify.com/track/4alqVnq2kaA0Rqve1TsGQ>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 10: 40-42

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Rewards

⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Why do you think Jesus places such importance on even the smallest acts of kindness, such as giving a cup of cold water?
- Who do you find difficult to welcome or receive? What might this passage be inviting you to learn about grace and discipleship in those relationships?
- What does this reveal about God's relationship with God's people, and how might it change the way we treat others?

Silence

Please take a moment to find a comfortable position and prepare yourself for five minutes of complete silence. Gently close your eyes and allow yourself to relax, while remaining fully present and aware of your surroundings.

Prayers of Confession and For Others

Loving God,

You welcome us with grace and compassion, yet we confess that we do not always extend that same welcome to others. We have overlooked those in need and missed opportunities to share your love.

Forgive us, renew us, and teach us to see Christ in those we meet each day.

Gracious God,

We pray for your world, especially for places where there is conflict, injustice, and suffering. Bring peace where there is division and hope where there is despair.

We pray for those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or struggling today. Surround them with your comfort and strength.

We pray for our communities, our families, and our churches. Help us to be people who welcome others as Christ welcomes us.

Bless all who serve, care for others, and work for the good of their communities.

May your love be seen through our words and actions this week.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.