

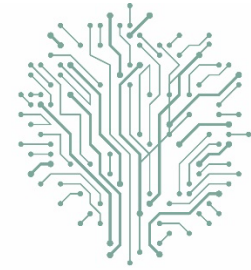
Closing Responses & Blessing

May the love of God hold you,
the peace of Christ walk with you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen and
guide you.

May you go from this place with courage,
compassion and hope,
to serve God and love one another.

Amen.

Unless otherwise indicated liturgies ©
2020 Saltbush Community Ministers



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 9th 18-26
Interruptions that are Life Giving

Welcome

As we gather, may we find strength for the
journey ahead and encouragement through one
another.

Welcome to worship.

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:

Faith of my Father

Steffany Gretzsinger

<https://open.spotify.com/album/0i0JE2RocLz10ymeGGbfvC>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 9:18-26

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread through all of that district.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Which person in this passage do you relate to most today? And why?
- How does Jesus bring hope and new life into situations that seem hopeless or overwhelming?
- How can we show the same compassion and care that Jesus showed to others in our congregation/community/ families?

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

God of mercy and grace,
we have been impatient and slow to trust you.
We confess the moments we have hurt others
with our words or actions,
and the times we have remained silent when we
could have shown kindness or courage.

Forgive us, O God.
Renew our hearts.

Lift the burdens we carry and draw us back into
your peace. Remind us again that your grace is
greater than our failures,
and your love never lets us go.

Loving God,
we pray for the world and your people.

We pray for those who are sick, grieving, lonely,
or overwhelmed. Bring comfort to those who
feel anxious or weary. Strengthen those facing
uncertainty and surround them with your peace.

We pray for families, children, and young
people. Guide them in your hope.

We pray for our communities. Teach us to be
people of compassion.

We pray for your Church across the world, that
we may reflect the light of Christ in all we do.

We place all these prayers into your loving
hands, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.