

We pray for ourselves, for the ways and things we share with others and those that we keep hidden away.

[silence]

May we have within and around us, the freedom and peace of Christ.

Where we struggle to know how to pray, let us pray together.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen.

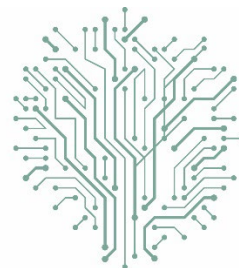
Music for Reflection

[Choose a piece of music to listen to or sing.](#)

Closing Responses & Blessing

Let us go from here today as people of hope,
As people of the kingdom,
As people of the way of Jesus Christ.

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

**Matthew 18: 15-20
Pentecost 15**

Welcome to all.

[An opportunity to welcome people to worship.](#)

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we find ourselves, the people, and we pay our respects to their elders, past present and emerging.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Creator God, out of your breath and being comes life, and it is good. For life, colour, names, light, beauty, fragility, **we give thanks.**

For water, eternity, love, birth, desert, mountain, **we give thanks.**

For creatures great and small, flower and field, forest shoots and blossoming gums, for male and female, **we give thanks.**

As we gather here, one with the other, touch us in your Spirit with wonder and awe. May we be a thankful people in your presence. We pray.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: All things bright and beautiful

All Creatures – Rain for Roots

<https://rainforroots.bandcamp.com/track/all-things-bright-and-beautiful-feat-sandra-mccracken>

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

Matthew 18: 15-20 (21-22)

Reproving Another Who Sins

¹⁵ 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering. Word Around the Bush. <https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/resources/the-word-around-the-bush/>

Questions for conversation

- What do you think the words about binding up or letting loose are about?
- What are the challenges, the struggles, to let loose, both others and ourselves?
- What do you hear in today's word?

A time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Simply be still and open to God.

Prayers for others

Eternal God, who brings forth life for wholeness and wonder. God of love and the wellspring of hope. God who in Christ brings the longing for freedom, letting go, life giving and release, we bring our prayers for others; our world, other people, ourselves.

Where we bind up other people through war, greed, oppression and anger. We pray for the letting loose, so that there can be peace and the flourishing of life.

[silence]

Where we bind up others out of fear, legalism, religious and political narrowness, and the quest for power. We pray for letting loose, so that there can be freedom and the goodness of life.

[silence]

Where we bind up others into hunger, slavery, poverty and exploitation. We pray for letting loose, so that there is justice and equality.

[silence]

In ways small and great, eternal God, may we participate in the ways of Christ, the letting loose, so that there is life.

We pray for others we know at this time in their need.

[silence]

May those we pray for, know the freedom and peace of Christ.