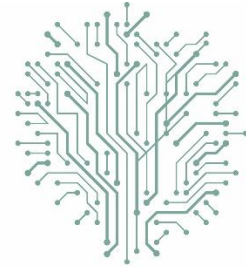


Closing Responses & Blessing

Go now, held in the prayer of Christ,
kept in the love of God,
and strengthened by the Spirit.

Amen.

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SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

John 17: 1-11
Jesus Still Prays for His People

Welcome

As we worship today, may we be reminded that we belong to God, that we are united in Christ, and that we are held together as one people through His grace.

Let us worship God.

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:

Heart of Jesus, Hear (Prayer to the Sacred Heart)- Bukas Palad Music Ministry

<https://open.spotify.com/track/5ipdgJb3dUg8rwf1xiyeyX>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Word around the Bush

John 17: 1-11 *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

● Jesus speaks of belonging to God; what identities or attachments compete with your identity as one who belongs to Him?

● Where do you struggle to trust God with the people or situations you care most about?

● Jesus is praying for you even now. What do you sense He is asking the Father for on your behalf and how might that shape the way you live this week?

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

Gracious God,
we confess that we have not always lived as one,
we have held onto pride, division, and fear,
and have not loved as you have called us to love.
Forgive us,
renew us,
and draw us back into your grace.

Loving God,
we pray for your people everywhere,
for those who are weary, those who are hurting,
and those who feel alone.
Hold them in your care, bring healing and peace,
and unite us all in your love, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.