



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23
The Extravagant Sower

Acknowledgement and Welcome

As we gather, we acknowledge the (name of First nations people) who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We pay our respects to elders' past, present and emerging.

Grace, hope and peace, in the name of God the Eternal presence, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Eternal God of the Ages, you are continually sowing the seed of your extravagant love in places of both welcome and hostility.

No matter who we are or where we are in life, you shower us with the blessings of your love, mercy and grace.

As we gather may we continue to be aware of your reign moving in our lives and in the world.

Holy Spirit, may we know your energy within us calling us to live out God's reign.

In Christ, the one for whom our lives are held, we praise and worship you.

Song:

[The Road Less Travelled](https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/the-road-less-travelled-2) by John Coleman and Ian Bartle <https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/the-road-less-travelled-2>

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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 13:1-23

13That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!" ¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Where have you experienced rocky or hard times in your life?
- When have you encountered the extravagant acts of God's love?
- How can we as the church reflect the extravagant generosity of God?

Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

Prayers for Others

Gracious God, our world seems so divided, we are often perplexed by the events of the world: on how the good and innocent suffer at the hands of despots and oppressors. Yet the seeds of your Kingdom keep falling on all terrain. May your seeds sprout in our lives with acts of justice, truth and hope. In Christ we pray, Amen.

(pause)

For those who are powerless and weighed down by the injustices they experience each day as they are judged by race, gender, class and religion. **May we stand alongside them as one in Christ.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we know your reign is for all creation and work for creations renewal.**

(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 our lives be an expression of your mercy and grace.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

Song for Reflection:

[In You We Live](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/in-you-we-live-keren-oe) by Malcolm Gordon and Karen Oey
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/in-you-we-live-keren-oe>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, knowing the Reign of God breaks forth in the world, proclaim God's presence, live as a child of God and be the people of hope, peace and love. In the name of the One who abides in us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless us and the people we meet along the way Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**