SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 25:14-30
A Different Way

Acknowledgment

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.

Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we share our lives with others.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

God of abundant love,
pour your love, your grace and mercy upon us.
That we may recognise your action in our lives and we may give our love and our lives to you as we serve your creation.
When we hold back and allow our pride and insecurities to dictate our actions, forgive us and strengthen us to give ourselves fully and completely.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Song:

As In Heaven by Malcolm Gordon
https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/as-in-heaven

Peace

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

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The Word around the Bush

Matthew 25:14-30
[14]"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15]to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. [17]In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18]But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20]Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22]And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24]Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26]But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

●What has been the most challenging thing you heard in the Word today?
●How does what you have heard apply to your church?
●What is one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?

Silence in Two Ways

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

Prayers for Others

God of abundance, as you show your love for us in relationship with you, we pray that we show our gratitude through our living. That we know the fullness of your life shown to us in Jesus and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. That we are free to live authentic, grace filled lives. Amen (pause)
For those who are shut out and shunned by the injustices they experience each day as they are judged by gender, race, class and religion. **May they know your grace and mercy.** (pause)
For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May you renew the face of the earth.** (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. **Give us the words to speak and the courage to act for a just world.** (pause)
In this time of silence, we bring you our prayers. **May we feel the breath of the Spirit upon us.** (pause)
In Christ, Amen.

Song for Reflection:

The Grace by Malcolm Gordon
https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/the-grace

Closing Responses & Blessing

As we journey as disciples of Christ.
May we know the fresh winds of the Holy Spirit blowing through our lives.
Celebrating the reign of God and standing for a just world in Jesus.

Go with the love of God.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**