

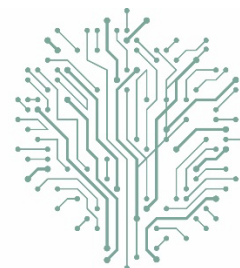
Closing Responses & Blessing

As we go from here,
may we listen for the voice of the Good
Shepherd and live the abundant life he gives.

And may the Grace of Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you now and always.

Amen.

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

John 10: 1-10
The Good Shepherd and The Gate

Welcome

Let us enter this time of worship with open
hearts,
ready to listen for Christ's voice,
ready to follow where he leads,
and ready to receive the fullness of life he
offers.

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:

The Good Shepherd- Fernando Ortega

<https://open.spotify.com/track/6esoBoSHk7owf1tXDSdmvY>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Word around the Bush

John 10: 1-10 *New Revised Standard Version
Updated Edition*

Jesus the Good Shepherd

10 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The Message

From your [Scattered Community Minister](#) or another leader within your gathering.

Questions for conversation

- What does it mean for you to recognise and trust the voice of the Good Shepherd in your daily life?
- Where do you see “abundant life” in your life or community? And where might God be inviting more of it?
- What are some voices or influences that distract you from following Jesus, and how can you refocus on Him 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

Loving Shepherd,
we confess that we have not always listened for your voice.
We have followed our own ways, wandered from your truth,
and failed to trust the life you offer.
Forgive us, gather us again, and lead us in your ways of love.

God of abundant life,
we pray for your world,
for those who are lost, hurting, or afraid,
for communities facing hardship, conflict, and uncertainty.
We pray for your church,
for peace, justice, and healing.
Guide us and strengthen the weary,
and help us to be your faithful people in all we do.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.