

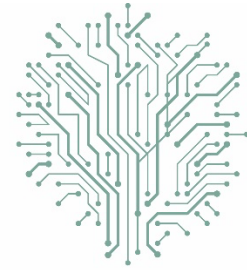
## Closing Responses & Blessing

May the God who plants good seed within us  
nurture us in faith,  
strengthen us in hope,  
and guide us in love.

And may the blessing of God,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

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SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 13: 36-43  
Living Faithfully in a Mixed Field

### Welcome

Welcome to worship. We are glad you are here.

### 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:*

**Faithful**

*Nicole Duckworth*

<https://open.spotify.com/track/4prINhMRRchBTiSghrMhsk>

## Passing the Peace

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

## The Word around the Bush

**Matthew 13: 36-43**

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

### Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- What is something that stood out to you in the reading or message?
- Where do you see evidence of both wheat and weeds growing together in our communities?
- How does this parable encourage you when you see injustice or suffering around you?

## 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 and patient God, you know our hearts.

We confess that there are times when we fail to trust your timing, seek our own way, and overlook the needs of others.

Forgive us when we judge too quickly, speak without kindness, or neglect to show your love.

Renew us by your grace, that we may grow as faithful disciples and bear the fruit of your kingdom.

Gracious God,  
we pray for your world where wheat and weeds grow together.  
We pray for your peace where there is conflict, hope where there is despair, and justice where there is oppression.

We pray for your Church, that we may be courageous in sharing your love.

We pray for our local communities, especially those who are struggling with illness, grief, loneliness and financial hardship.

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours. Help us to be people of compassion.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**