

For our church and our wider community ...
**Christ who walked our walk and trod our path,
we pray for your church. Build us once more as
your rock. Invite us once more to discipleship.
And draw beside us once more along the way
that we might sit, and invite others to sit, in your
company.**

Silence

For ourselves ...
**Christ, inviter of the least,
Confronter of the proud,
Welcomer of the stranger,
Healer of the unwell,
And sufferer for all,
We pray for ourselves.**

Silence

Closing Responses & Blessing

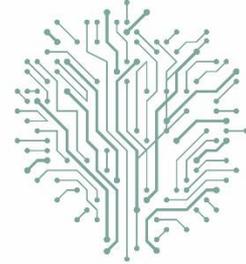
The cross before us.
The cross behind us.

Let us go in silence.
Let us go in peace.

**Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

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Saltbush Community Ministers



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 18:1 – 19:42
The Crucifixion of Jesus
Good Friday

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Gathering Prayer

17 Carrying his own cross, Jesus went out to a place called The Place of the Skull, which in the Hebrew language is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified Jesus. They also crucified two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle.

Today we gather at the foot of the cross, and just as in the Gospels, some gather close, some stand far off, some would prefer not to be here, some of the world do not even turn their heads. But today it is Christ who makes the difference to the world.

For us here today, we gather, for whatever reason we come.

**Let us be open to the way of Christ of the cross.
Amen.**

Music for Reflection

Suggested music:

[The Passion of the Christ: it is done](https://music.apple.com/au/album/it-is-done/158973300?i=158973831)

<https://music.apple.com/au/album/it-is-done/158973300?i=158973831>

Passing the 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

John 18: 1 – 19: 42.

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister online:
<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/the-word-around-the-bush/>
or another leader within your gathering.

Questions for conversation

- What do you see from your own life in the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ?
- I wonder what you have heard and thought from the Word today?
- I wonder what you heard in the Word for our church?
- What 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.

- You may like to say the prayer phrase “Mar-an-ath-a” (which means come Lord). Say this as four syllables. Do not try to think or imagine anything. If thoughts or distractions come simply return to saying the word.
- Or you may like “sitting with God” — a silent time in which we focus all our mind, heart and soul on the presence of God without trying to create it. Simply be still and open to God.

Prayers for Others

All pray in bold. One pray each colour.

At the foot of the cross,
we pray on this Good Friday for our world and its people.

In the shadow of suffering,
we pray on this day for the world and its people.

In the confusion and parting, the longing and loss,
we pray for our world and its people.

Lord, in our simple faith, we bring our prayers for your creation and for the people of this world.

• O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:

Your creation ...

Holy God, we pray for the creation and through it the life you bring. We pray that we, humanity, would be drawn to action, to gentleness, to respect, for the land on which we tread. We pray for those who live and work on the land in times of drought, turmoil and change.

Silence

For others we have heard about throughout our world ...

Ever present God, we pray for our world in these days of suffering and death. For a world gripped by fear and panic. Perhaps we are reminded God, that it is not we ourselves who are all powerful and the centre of all things. We pray for those who feel overwhelmed by life, by fear, by loss, by death.

Silence

For other people we know and are close to ...

Gathering God, we pray for people we know at this time who struggle, both in life and death. We pray for those we love and those we find hard to love

Silence