We pray for those who are hungry, homeless, sick, grieving or lonely. May they experience your love through the kindness and care of others.

We pray for your Church, that we may have the courage to put that love into action.

We remember those within our own communities who are struggling and those who need encouragement and hope.

Jesus our King, teach us to recognise your presence in the least, the lost and the overlooked.

May your kingdom be made known through the way we love, serve and care for one another.

Amen.

Closing Responses & Blessing

May the blessing of God, Father, Son 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 25: 31-46
Christ The King

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:
Christ Our King
Red Worship, Trinity Anderson, Jonathan Traylor
https://open.spotify.com/search/christ%20the%20king

Passing the Peace

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

The Word around the Bush

Matthew 25: 31-46
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Judgment of the Nations
31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and
all the angels with him, then he will sit on the
throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be
gathered before him, and he will separate
people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he
will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats
at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his
right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was
hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and
you gave me something to drink, I was a
stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked
and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you
took care of me, I was in prison and you visited
me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him,
'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and
gave you food or thirsty and gave you something
to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a
stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave
you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw
you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the
king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as
you did it to one of the least of these brothers
and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he
will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are
accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire
prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was
hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty
and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a
stranger and you did not welcome me, naked
and you did not give me clothing, sick and in
prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they
also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw
you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or
sick or in prison and did not take care of
you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell
you, just as you did not do it to one of the least
of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these
will go away into eternal punishment but the
righteous into eternal life."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What is something you heard for the first time from the reading or Word Around The Bush?

- Who are the people we might be overlooking in our churches and communities today?

- What does this passage challenge us to reconsider about how we live out our Christian faith?

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

Lord Jesus Christ,
You are our King, you came to serve, not to be served.

Forgive us when we honour you with our words but fail to follow you in our actions.

Forgive us when we overlook those who are hungry, lonely, struggling or forgotten.

Forgive us when we choose comfort over compassion and remain silent in the face of injustice.

Open our eyes to recognise you in the lives of others.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for a world longing for peace and justice.

We pray for nations torn apart by war, for families displaced from their homes, and for those suffering under violence and oppression. May your justice and peace prevail.