



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Psalm 16  
IRCA Evening Prayers

### Welcome

As we come to the end of the day the Saltbush Team from the Uniting Church in Australia and New South Wales – Australian Capital Territory send our greetings to you all. We acknowledge the traditional sovereign nations on whose lands we live, play and are sustained and pay our respects to traditional Elders past, present and emerging.

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

As the day draws to a close across the red earth and the sun sets in vibrant colours, we give thanks for all that has been, this day.

God of flourishing life,  
We give thanks for the land that sustains all life

God of flourishing life,  
We give thanks for the people we have encountered this day and offer our prayers for our loved ones near and far away

God of flourishing life,  
We give thanks for this community of strangers bound together in love of you and our common interest of rural life

God of flourishing life,  
You invite us to rest in you and be renewed in your safe keeping

**Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Christ before me](#)

© Songs for the Saints, 2016 Music by Kirstin Cant and Malcolm Gordon. Lyrics by Malcolm Gordon.  
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-3>

## Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## The Word around the Bush

### Psalm 16

- <sup>1</sup> Keep me safe, O God,  
for I have come to you for refuge.
- <sup>2</sup> I said to the Lord, "You are my Master!  
Every good thing I have comes from you."
- <sup>3</sup> The godly people in the land  
are my true heroes!  
I take pleasure in them!
- <sup>4</sup> Troubles multiply for those who chase after other  
gods.  
I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood  
or even speak the names of their gods.
- <sup>5</sup> Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of  
blessing.  
You guard all that is mine.
- <sup>6</sup> The land you have given me is a pleasant land.  
What a wonderful inheritance!
- <sup>7</sup> I will bless the Lord who guides me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.
- <sup>8</sup> I know the Lord is always with me.  
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.
- <sup>9</sup> No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.<sup>[a]</sup>  
My body rests in safety.
- <sup>10</sup> For you will not leave my soul among the dead<sup>[a]</sup>  
or allow your holy one<sup>[a]</sup> to rot in the grave.
- <sup>11</sup> You will show me the way of life,  
granting me the joy of your presence  
and the pleasures of living with you forever.<sup>[a]</sup>

## The Message

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

## Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still

## Prayers for Others

God of flourishing life, hear our prayers for the land,  
its people and the community we share.

We give you thanks for the beauty of the land, from  
blue waters and green lands of the pacific islands, to  
the tall mountains of Aotearoa and the wide red  
plains of Australia.

Hear our prayers for the land, where it has suffered  
damage at our hands, bring restoration and change  
our hearts that we might turn from greed and seek  
your way of reconciliation and renewal.

We give thanks for the people of the world, rural and  
urban, women, children and men.  
Hear our prayers for all people, where there is  
fracturing of relationships, where respect is withheld,  
bring healing and wholeness and change our hearts  
that we might turn from selfishness and seek your  
way of reconciliation and renewal.

We give thanks for the communities we belong to, for  
their care and nurture of each other and the interests  
we hold in common.  
Hear our prayers for communities across the globe,  
where there is disharmony bring peace and  
discernment and change our hearts that we might  
turn from disunity and seek your way of reconciliation  
and renewal.

God of flourishing life guide our ways and hearts that  
with the Psalmist we might discover your way of life  
and find joy in your presence forever.  
Amen.

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Ever present God, be with us this night and keep us  
safe.

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