

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

For our church and our wider community ...  
*Silence*

For ourselves ...  
*Silence*

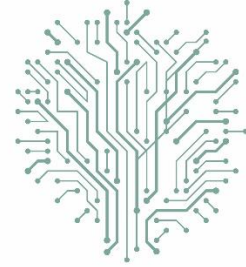
## Closing Responses & Blessing

Behind closed doors in our unbelief we wait;  
and yet you appear with words of Peace,  
to receive the Holy Spirit.

In our unbelief reach out your hand to us risen Christ  
and cast aside our doubt that we might acclaim with  
Thomas "My Lord and my God"

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

**Amen.**



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 20: 19-31  
Jesus Appears to the Disciples

### Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

## Responses & Gathering Prayer

Jesus Christ, we greet you!  
Your hands still have holes in them,  
your feet are wet from the dew;  
and with the memory of our names  
undimmed by three days of death  
you meet us,  
risen from the grave.

We fail to understand how;  
we puzzle at the reason why.

But you have come:  
not to answer our questions  
but to show us your face.

**You are alive  
and the world can rejoice again.  
Hallelujah!  
Amen. 1.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: **Psalm 16**

Acknowledgment: *Sons of Korah* <https://5iveonline.com/product/fractures/>  
<https://open.spotify.com/album/7H7aTjINu58mMD9XtFnmZ1?highlight=spotify:track:1o183oAaUbloCxDnLqnHYA>

## 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 20: 19-31

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

● 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

Go ahead of us, O God into the Galilees of our day, into the places where we try to make a difference, or the places where life has become commonplace and where new possibilities are forgotten.

Hear our prayer

**Colour the fabric of our life with your beauty.**

Go ahead of us, gracious Jesus, into the places where we fear to tread because we can see few signs of change, or violence's and oppressions which seem beyond your power, or our power, to change.

(Liturgies for High Days - 2006, page 104, Dorothy McRae-McMahon)

● O Christ we open ourselves in prayer for:

[\[Silence for personal prayer or invite others to open prayer in between each\]](#)

Your creation ...

*Silence*

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

*Silence*