

Prayers for Others

Eternal God, on this Easter Day we pray.

Where there is hope, you are there.
Where there is compassion and the desire for wholeness, you are there.
Where there is the struggle for peace, you are there.
Where the hungry are fed, and the poor empowered, you are there.
Where there is delight in the trees of the land, or the depths of the seas, you are there.
Wherever love is announced, you are there.

In you is such longing for your creation and for humanity, as we see in the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and we thank you for that presence of you, in Spirit, in people, renewing, calling, and saving.

In that knowledge, and 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 ...

Silence

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

Silence

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

Silence

For our church and our wider community ...

Silence

For ourselves ...

Silence

Closing Responses & Blessing

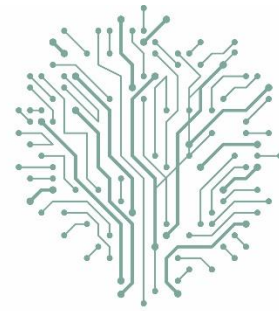
The blessing of God be upon each of us to draw us into faith.

The blessing of Christ be upon each of us to hear our names and call us along the way.

The blessing of Spirit be upon each of us to send us out into our community and wider world.

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: 1-18
Easter Day**

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Lord,
satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
So that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
[Ps. 90:14]

Draw us in to your presence Lord and open to us
once more the depth of your being.

Draw us into your presence Lord that we may
recognise you before us and hear you call us by
name.

Draw us in to your steadfast love, so that we may
again know the deeper mystery of life.

Draw us in to your way, so that we may ponder
Christ and his word along the way, and hear anew
his voice in our own lives.

**Draw us in Lord, as we gather here. Dwell
amongst your people across the lands and call us
out into faith and life. We pray. Amen.**

Music for Reflection

Suggested Song: [Revealing the Holy](#)

Malcolm Gordon © 2013 *Revealing the Holy*,
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/revealing-the-holy>

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: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman,

why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Message

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

<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/the-word-around-the-bush/>

Questions for conversation

- On this Easter Day, where do you recognise the risen Christ and where do you struggle to recognise Christ?
- What do you hear for your church in the word today?
- 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.