

We pray for those who cry out for justice and who long to be heard. For those who live amongst the rubble, the grief and the oppression.

Silence

We pray for those who cry out for peace and who long for someone to come amongst them and say "peace to you".

Silence

We pray for those who cry out for support, for food, for health, or shelter.

Silence

We pray for those who have little expectation, for those who see little hope, for those who wait, but wonder what they are waiting for.

Silence

We pray for ourselves, when we find ourselves overwhelmed and find our belief to be small.

Silence

Lord come anew within and around. This is our prayer.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Make me a channel of your peace...

Acknowledgment: © Kathy Zavada

<https://open.spotify.com/track/5knvn6MJzvLUoMFbxWDFNY?si=cb0fc6c8feaf4e40>

Closing Responses & Blessing

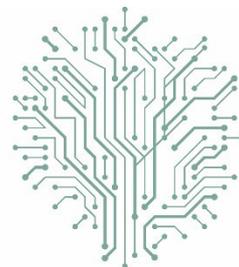
Go out into the world,
To love and serve the Lord.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way.

Father,
Son
and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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Community Ministers



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

**John 20: 19-31
Easter 2**

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Welcome to Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we find ourselves, the people, and we pay our respects to their elders, past present and emerging.

Gathering Prayer

We come with faith and doubt entwined.

Come amongst us Lord, that we might be enlivened in our belief and know your presence amongst us, and within our lives.

We give thanks for this day and this community of people who gather around us in this place.

We give thanks for the goodness and wonder of life, even though we don't fully understand.

We give thanks for mystery and the way of Christ amongst us and throughout the world.

Still us Lord, in the grace you bring. We pray.

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: Christ before me...

Acknowledgment: © Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/album/into-the-deep>

Passing the Peace

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'

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.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

19 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.' 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 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.'

26 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.' 27 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.' 28 Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' 29 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.'

The Purpose of This Book

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 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

- What are your thoughts about the entwining of doubt and belief?
- What do you hear from the accounts of Thomas who would not believe.... "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"?
- Do you have any comments or experiences you can share about doubt?

A Time of Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still; a time of "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

We pray for others and for the people of this world. Let us pray.

Lord we dwell in the locked rooms of fear as we look out onto our world with all its turmoil, its suffering and the chaos of truth and power, misused and unyielding.

It is easy to be hopeful, but feel powerless.
It is easy to believe, but also doubt.
It is easy to pray, but also hard.

And yet we are a people of life and will draw Christ into our rooms of fear.