

Closing Responses & Blessing

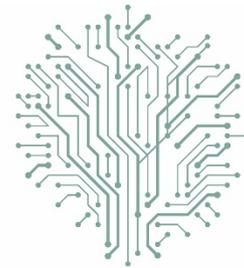
Go now,
with hearts set on fire.

Go and tell what you have seen and heard:

Christ is risen.
Christ walks with us.
Christ is made known among us.

Amen.

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SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 24: 13-49

From Blindness to Sight: The Shepherd
who leads us through the dark

Welcome

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Today we gather with the women at the tomb,
with the disciples on the road,
with hearts that have known sorrow,
and now dare to hope again

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader:
At dawn, the women came to the tomb...

All:
...but the stone was rolled away!

Leader:
Death could not hold him.

All:
Jesus is alive! Alleluia!

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:

Death Could Not Hold You- Easter Worship

Elen Amor

<https://open.spotify.com/track/4A9HO9UH8ejGQWaOuFuH7>

Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Word around the Bush

Read Luke 24: 13-49

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What does Easter mean to you?
- What hopes in your life have changed, been lost, or reshaped?
- How does it comfort you to know that Christ is present, even when unseen?

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

Risen Lord,
like the disciples, we confess:

We do not always recognise you.
We walk in confusion,

we dwell in disappointment,
we cling to what we thought should have been.

Forgive us,
when our hearts are slow to believe.
Forgive us,
when hope feels too risky.

Risen Christ,
you walked alongside your disciples,
draw near to us and to your world.

We pray for places of war and violence,
for communities living in fear,
for those displaced and suffering.

We pray for creation;
for rising seas,
fire and flood,
vulnerable Pacific nations and island communities.

We pray for your church, our congregation,
that we may recognise you in unexpected places,
that our hearts may burn with your truth,
and that we may boldly share the good news.

We pray for our community,
for those who feel lost,
for those carrying heavy burdens,
for those longing for new life.

And when we do not recognise you,
stay with us,
Until our eyes are opened.

Amen.