

## Jesus Come and Stand Among us

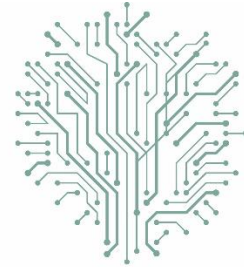
When disciples were frightened  
so confused that he was dead  
Jesus came and stood among them  
“Peace be with you”, he said.

*He is risen, risen,  
he was dead but now he lives.  
We were lost but he has found us  
with the life he gives.*

Can we see you, can we touch you  
like disciples long ago.  
Would it make any difference  
do we doubt what we know.

Jesus come and stand among us  
show yourself to us again  
We will speak what you tell us  
we will go where you send.

Robin Mann



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 20:19-31  
Resurrection is Relationship

### Welcome

We come to hear the Good News, to embody the love of God in Christ as we share our lives with others.

### Lighting of Christ Candle

God's truth is revealed in Jesus Christ the light of the world. May the light shine for the hope of the world. (light the candle)

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Risen Christ!  
You are our constant presence,  
inviting us to be in relationship with you.  
To see, to hear, to feel and to know.  
Your resurrection is our hope and constant reality as  
you continue to reveal the depth of your love and  
wisdom to us through the Holy Spirit.  
Living, Loving Creator we give you thanks and praise  
for Jesus, the one who comes to us even behind  
locked doors. In Christ, Amen.

### Song:

[Pilgrims together.](https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/pilgrims-together) John Coleman  
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/pilgrims-together>

### 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." <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

Ever present God, as you show your love for us in relationship with you. We pray that we continue to look for your love, to hear your voice, to feel your touch and to have the Spirit of Life breath upon us your life giving grace.

(pause)

For those who are shut out and shunned by the injustices they experience each day as they are judged by gender, race, class and religion. **Give us the words to speak and the courage to act for a just world.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **Give us the words to speak and the courage to act for a just world.**

(pause)

We know you are with those who are experiencing difficult days in our communities, may we be free to share our lives with them also. **Give us the words to speak and the courage to act for a just world.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers. May we feel the breath of the Spirit upon us.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

## Song for Reflection:

[Jesus Come and stand Among Us](https://youtu.be/AMq-M4Uo764). Robin Mann  
<https://youtu.be/AMq-M4Uo764>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, journey with the One who walks with you and calls you to a deeper truth.

Go with open hearts and minds, knowing the Spirit of God is with you, the breath of God upon you.

And may you be voices of wisdom, your actions standing for justice, peace, grace and welcome.

In the name of the Risen Christ.

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