



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 20:1-18  
I have seen the Lord.

### Welcome

Mary announced to the disciples “I have seen the Lord”. Today we can say with confidence:  
**“We have seen the Lord!”**

### Lighting of Christ Candle

God’s truth is revealed in the risen Christ the light of the world. May the light shine for the hope of the world.

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Incredible, surprising, renewing, life-giving God, we come this day shaken by the stench of death behind the stone. The deathly stench of hatred, violence, environmental destruction, fear and suspicion. Yet we have seen the Lord, we know that life conquers death, hope conquers despair, peace conquers violence and love conquers hate.

**We have seen the Lord! The Spirit of Life is in our midst, the God of Hope calling us to join God’s movement of love in the world. In the risen Christ. Amen.**

### Song:

[Waiting for the Dawn](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/waiting-for-the-dawn) by Malcolm Gordon  
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/waiting-for-the-dawn>

### 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

20Early 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. 2So 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." 3Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12and 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. 13They 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." 14When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15Jesus 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." 16Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17Jesus 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.'" 18Mary 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.

## Questions for conversation

•Today the message is personal and invites us to share of the times we have seen the Lord.

•How does seeing the Lord encourage the church and the communities in which you find yourselves?

## Silence

In this time allow yourselves the space to consider the empty tomb. It no longer holds death, it no longer has the stench of decay. In your silence feel the freedom the empty tomb may bring to your life.

## Prayers for Others

O God, as we are witnesses to the Risen Lord, we pray for the world to escape a bleak, deadly tomb and be brought into the light of your resurrected presence. To walk a life of transformed hope, of acceptance and of an eternal love that reflects your grace.

On this day we pray for our world:

May the lies and toxic actions of despots give way to the freedom of nations.

May the deadly stench of war cease and peace reign.

May our violence to the earth give way to the paths of renewal and regeneration.

May those who are in fear be released from the causes of that fear.

May we know the stone has been rolled away and the risen Christ is amongst us.

Amen.

## Song for Reflection:

[Revealing the Holy](https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/revealing-the-holy) by John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/revealing-the-holy>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

We have seen the Lord! Our lives are no longer the same, we are called into a resurrected life.

Go knowing the Risen Christ is with you.

Go knowing the Holy Spirit moves you.

Go knowing the God of peace surrounds you.

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