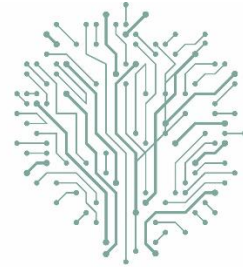


- Prayers adapted from Fire and Bread by Iona Community.



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 20:19-31
Doubt: Friend or Enemy?

Welcome

Jesus' peace come to us all no matter where we are or who we are.

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

Sometime believing, sometimes doubting.

We are welcome in God's presence.

Sometimes laughing, sometimes weeping.

We are welcome in God's presence.

Gracious eternal welcoming God, we give you thanks and praise that we come as we are into your presence knowing that you love and receive us as your own, in Christ. Amen

Song:

[Hymn of St. Thomas](#) by Anna Purdum.

<https://youtu.be/nJo2uAuTD34>

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

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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

- How have you shown your vulnerability before God?
- How have we been open to the vulnerability of others?
- Has there ever been a time when your doubts have strengthened your faith?

Silence

In this time allow yourselves the space to be silent before God. Knowing that God hears your deepest thoughts and feelings.

Prayers for Others

Open our eyes
We long to see you.

As we wonder at your resurrection, at the hope you have given us, we remember the appearances you made to those close to you and we pray that our eyes too may be opened to your presence.

Open our eyes
We long to see you.

We think of Thomas, so full of doubt. Yet you recognised his need to be reassured by your presence. We offer you our concerns for our world. Sometimes it is hard to see your presence in events that unfold.

Comfort us and take away our doubt as we pray for reconciliation and hope in the world in which we live.

Open our eyes
We long to see you.

We bring to you the concerns of our hearts (a minutes pause)

In Christ we pray. Amen *

Song for Reflection:

[The Lord is my Light](https://youtu.be/r64gcGMNhDE) by Taize
<https://youtu.be/r64gcGMNhDE>

Closing Responses & Blessing

As God sent Jesus.

Jesus sends us

To bring hope and healing

Jesus sends us

To care for our neighbours

Jesus sends us

To work for justice

Jesus sends us

With the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Jesus sends us

Jesus sends us with love. *

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