

Christ Before Me

Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ above me
and below.

Christ beside me, Christ within me, Christ around me
where e'er I go.

*Everything is sacred, everything is blessed, everyone
made worthy to find their holy rest. Everyone
belongs here everyone is love. Every life that's failing
grace will lift above*

Christ before you, Christ behind you, Christ above
you and below.

Christ beside you, Christ within you, Christ around
you where e'er you go. (*chorus*)

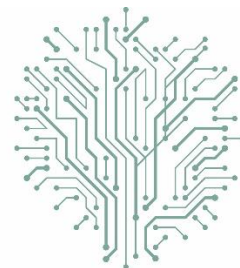
Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ above us
and below.

Christ beside us, Christ within us, Christ around us
where e'er we go. (*chorus*)

Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ above me
and below.

Christ beside me, Christ within me, Christ around me
where e'er I go.

Malcolm Gordon



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 16:13-20
Who do YOU say I am?

Acknowledgment and Welcome

As we gather, we acknowledge the (name of First nations people) who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We pay our respects to elders' past, present and emerging.

Grace, hope and peace, in the name of God the Eternal presence, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Eternal Creator, we see your beauty and love throughout all of creation. We feel your presence in the love we share with others, in the gentle breeze, in your words from Scripture and in the still small voice of the Spirit. With Jesus we journey and as we do you are revealed to us through this one who calls us to love, to empathy and compassion, to justice and mercy. May grow closer to you as grow in our relationship with the one we know as Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Song

[Christ before Me](#) by Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2>

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

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- Who do you say Jesus is?
- Who does your church say Jesus is?
- How does your church show who Jesus is through their worship and community life?

Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. If you feel distracted by other thoughts, allow them to drift away. Allow the silence of the moment as an opportunity to hear the still small voice of God.

Prayers for Others

Ever present God, as we encounter your words and actions through Jesus may we know that we are invited to participate in your loving action for the world, to help restore creation, to be ministers of reconciliation and bearers of your hope. May we be open to your Spirit's leading, to move in your life. (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. **May we take up our cross and walk with the marginalised.** (pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we seek sustainable ways of living and caring for your creation.** (pause)

We know you are with those who are experiencing difficult days in our communities. **May we care for others.** (pause)

In this time of silence, we bring our prayers. **May we always encounter your love, mercy and compassion.** (pause)

May we journey the way of authenticity. In Christ, Amen.

Song for Reflection

You might like to repeat 'Christ Before Me' as a way of reflection and sending out.

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 Jesus the Christ.

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

For Saltbush Communion go to:

<https://vimeo.com/582800387>