

Closing Responses & Blessing

Just as Jesus came not to be served but to serve
and to give his life for the sake of the world,
let us go forth to love and serve all creation
in the name of the one who calls us
to delight in all its goodness. ¹

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

To follow this God

To follow this God is to suffer with him
to turn our face to Jerusalem.
To follow this God is to bleed for this world
to turn the cheek, see no evil returned.

Let the first may be last as the crucified Christ,
that the least may be great as the cursed raised to life.
So, we take our vow of cross and we follow behind.
For we suffer with Christ and with Christ we will rise.

To follow this God is to make end in death,
that call of suffering drain to its depth.
To follow this God is to die among thieves, to share
God's living love even with thieves.

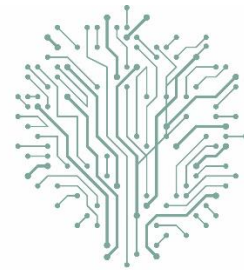
Let the first may be last as the crucified Christ,
that the least may be great as the cursed raised to life.
So, we take our vow of cross and we follow behind.
For we suffer with Christ and with Christ we will rise.

To follow this God, make the wilderness whole,
and see life grow in the veil of dry bones.
To follow this God, make your bed in the depths and
see hope rise in the valley of dead.

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that the least may be great as the cursed raised to life.
So, we take our vow of cross and we follow behind.
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For we suffer with Christ and with Christ we will rise.
For we suffer with Christ and with Christ we will rise.

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SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

A Holy Communion video led liturgy is available at
<https://vimeo.com/572335335>

Mark 10: 35 – 45
Pentecost 21

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

God of all creation,
you laid the foundations of the earth
while all the morning stars sang together,
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy.

You created us in your image,
to love and serve one another
as Jesus loved and served his friends.

As we listen to your deeds of old,
open our hearts and minds
to hear the voice of your Holy Spirit. ¹

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [To follow this God](#)
from [MARK: Illustrated Gospel Project](#), Nov 30, 2017
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/to-follow-this-god-mark-8-31-38-9-30-37-10-32-45>

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

Mark 10: 35 - 45

The Request of James and John

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" ³⁹ They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹ When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

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 it looks like for the Christian community to be the slave of all?
- 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

Jesus the one who comes to us as a servant, who turns the worlds expectations of greatness upside down here our prayer.

And in your mercy, we pray:

For those who experience the world oppressed by the greed of others.

And we give thanks for those who spend their lives serving others.

Help us to set aside our self-importance and desire for greatness and for all who lead, wisdom, humility and a determination to seek the common good.

Silence:

For those caught up in the conflict of grasping for power.

And we give thanks for those who advocate for a just world and speak truth to power

Help us to set aside our power and become slaves to your good news and for those who lead, humility and kindness to all.

Silence:

For those stripped of dignity and self-respect by the exploitation for others gain.

And we give thanks for those who spend their lives bringing comfort and healing.

Help us to set aside self interest and pride and to give and receive the care that is needed and for those who lead a servant heart of love and respect for all.

Silence:

We give thanks servant Jesus who models a different greatness and leadership in a world hungry for power and position. Open our eyes and give us courage to follow you, that in serving the world it might be changed and reflect your kin-dom.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Suggested song: [Our Father in heaven](#)

[A Pocketful of Smooth Stones](#) by [Malcolm Gordon](#) © 2020
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/come-one-come-all-2>