

## 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*)

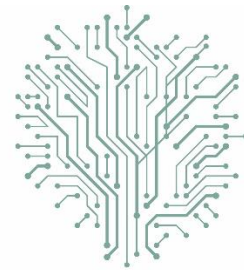
Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ above us and below.

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



SALTBUSH  
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

John 6:56-69  
Know Where to Look

### 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.

### Responses & Gathering Prayer

Timeless Presence, Loving God,  
We find in Jesus the one who has the words of eternal life but we find his words difficult.

**Eat my flesh, drink my blood.**

We find in Jesus the one who embodies you, who is an expression of your love but his commands are hard.

**Love your enemy, love your neighbour.**

We find in Jesus the one for whom Spirit and life are one but his call to follow is so demanding.

**Sell all you have and follow me.**

Yet, in you O Christ, we look and we find life, peace and love. 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

## John 6:56-69

<sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.<sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.<sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”<sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”<sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you?”<sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?<sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.<sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.<sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.<sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?”<sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.<sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

## 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 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 be co-creators, 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 they know your life with them. May we know how to speak and act for justice.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May all creation know your life. May we journey with you as co-creators and nurturers.**

(pause)

We know you are with those who are experiencing difficult days in our communities. **May we be bearers of your love and envoys of your hope.**

(pause)

In this time of silence, we bring you our prayers. **May we feel the breath of the Spirit upon us, the movement of Christ’s peace within us.**

(pause)

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 the Risen Christ.

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