GOD OF THE MESS   
Chorus: God of the mess that we're in,   
You still bless us and feel every bump when we fall;   
You see the good in our hearts   
and you know how we struggle   
You fathered and mothered us all.   
  
You see through the eyes of the child on the street   
The man on the dole who drinks down defeat   
The mother alone - her rent overdue   
It's not what you want but it's true. CHORUS   
  
The old man confused, the junkie in gaol,   
The baby all bruised- a victim so frail;   
Good things go wrong, we try and we fail   
Over and over again. CHORUS   
  
But the seasons turn round and wounds they can mend.   
A neighbour comes round- you laugh in the end.   
You take a deep breath and count up to ten   
And start it all over again.   
  
FINAL CHORUS:   
God of the mess that we're in,   
You still bless us and feel every bump when we fall;   
You see the good in our hearts   
and you know how we struggle   
You fathered and mothered us all.   
You fathered and mothered us all.   
You fathered and mothered us all.   
Oh yes, we know you did -   
You fathered and mothered us all.   
  
Words & music by Peter Kearney

### credits

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**Simple worship for the scattered Christian community**

Luke 4:21-30

Whose voice do you hear?

**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**

Speak within our lives, O God.

Help us to have the courage to share what we hear and the openness to receive the voices which express that wisdom.

**May our lives be lived with a depth of love which allows us to listen to what others wish to say to us. May your holy Word be heard among us,**

**This we pray in faith. Amen \***

**Song**

[God of the Mess](https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/34-god-of-the-mess). By Peter Kearney

https://peterkearney.bandcamp.com/track/34-god-of-the-mess

**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**

**Luke 4:21-30**

21Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” 22All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”23He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” 24And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. 25But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” 28When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**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**

O God, in Jesus Christ, you lived our life and experienced all that faces us.

As we bring our prayers to you today, we know we can trust that you will deeply understand all that we share with you.

**Be with us in our longing, Jesus Christ.**

We see a world in which there are terrible divides.

People desperately starving and suffering while others have far more than they will ever need.

Inspire us to embrace the changes that must take place.

**Be with us in our longing, Jesus Christ.**

We see your creation longing for renewal, for restoration, give us the insight and courage to make the changes necessary for the world to be a hospitable place for all your creatures.

**Be with us in our longing, Jesus Christ.**

In our own communities we see the divisions caused by those whose political and social agenda is merely to have power and control according to their own ideology, against the health and needs of others.

**Be with us in our longing, Jesus Christ.**

For our own selves, to trust in the voices that reflect your love, your justice and your peace.

In Christ we pray, Amen.

**Music for Reflection:**

[Be Still and Know that I am God](https://marybrizard1.bandcamp.com/track/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god) instrumental Mary Brizard

<https://marybrizard1.bandcamp.com/track/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god>

**Closing Responses & Blessing**

Let us create a community of faith which invites trust and authenticity, in each other and with each other.

Let us go into the world as those held firmly in love by our God and each other.

And may the joy of our life together echo the love of God the Parent of all creation, our brave searching for truth bear witness to the holy life of Jesus Christ and our passion for honest engagement with others reflect that of the Holy Spirit. Amen\*

\* Words for Worship. UCA. MediaCom Education.