

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*)

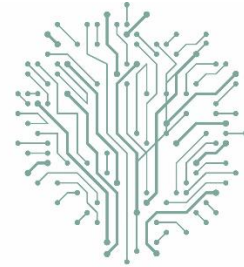
Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ above us and below.

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

Luke 14:25-33
Difficult Words

Welcome

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.

"hate your mother and father"

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

"Carry your cross"

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

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What does it mean for me to count the cost of discipleship?
- How do I carry my cross?
- As a church how do we bear the cross of Christ?

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 take up our cross and 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 take our cross and care for others.**

(pause)

In this time of silence, we bring you our prayers. **May we know the cost of being cross bearers.**

(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**