

Christ before me:

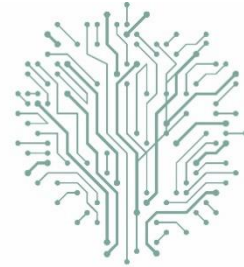
*Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ above me and below.
Christ beside me, Christ within me,
Christ around me where'er I go.*

*Everything is sacred
Everything is blessed
Everyone made worthy
To find their holy rest
Everyone belongs here
Everyone is loved
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'er you go.
Christ before us, Christ behind us,
Christ above us and below.
Christ beside us, Christ within us,
Christ around us where'er we go*

© 2013. Malcolm Gordon [Into the deep](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2),
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2>

*Inspired by 'St Patrick's Breastplate'
Music and Lyrics: Malcolm Gordon*



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>

John 14:15-21
Easter 6 – The Advocate

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

God of power, God of people
You are the life of all that lives,
energy that fills the earth,
vitality that brings to birth, the impetus
towards making whole whatever is bruised or
broken.

In you we grow to know the truth that sets all creation
free.

You are the song the whole earth sings the promise
liberation brings now and forever. *1.*

Amen.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Christ before me](#)

© 2013. Malcolm Gordon [Into the deep](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2),
<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.

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Community Ministers

- 1 © 1987. Miriam Therese Winter. Woman
Prayer, Woman Song
- 2 © 1990. Janet Morley, Christian Aid

The Word around the Bush

John 14:15-21

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What did you hear in the Word today?
- Where do you see the Paraclete at work?
- How might your Christian community practice "direction, meditation and testing" of the Paraclete's promptings?

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, the source of our common life,
when we are dry and scattered,
when we are divided and alone,
we long for connection, we long for community.

Breath of God, breath on us.

With those we live beside,
who are often strange to us,
whom we may be afraid to approach,
yet who have riches of friendship to share,
we long for connection, we long for community.

Breath of God, breath on us.

With those we have only heard of,
who see with different eyes,
whose struggles we try to imagine,
whose fierce joy we wish we could grasp,
we long for connection, we long for community.

Breath of God, breath on us.

With those who we will never know,
but whose lives are linked with ours,
whose shared ground we stand on,
and whose common air we breathe,
we long for connection, we long for community.

Breath of God, breath on us.

When we are dry and scattered,
when we are divided and alone,
when we are cut off from the source of our life,
open our graves, O God,
that all your people may be free to breathe,
strong to move,
and joyful to stand together to celebrate your name.

Amen. 2.

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Colossian Hymn](#)

© [Songs for the Saints](#), released May 30, 2016

Music and lyrics by Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/the-colossian-hymn>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Come Spirit of truth be our Advocate as we journey together in this land exploring life and faith.

Walk beside us and teach us to love and follow your commandments day by day.

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

Amen