

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*)

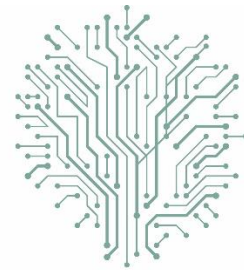
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Malcolm Gordon



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Matthew 16:21-28
Our True Selves

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.

"to become my followers, let them deny themselves"

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

"take up your cross"

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

"for those who want to save their life will lose it"

Yet, in you O Christ, we look and we find life, peace and love. We find our true selves. Amen

Song

[Christ before Me](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/christ-before-me-2) 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

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What does it mean for you to deny yourself?
- How do you carry your cross?
- As a church how do we deny ourselves and carry our cross?

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 our prayers. **May we know the cost of being cross bearers.**

(pause)

May we journey the way of authenticity.

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**

For Saltbush Communion go to:

<https://vimeo.com/582800387>