

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

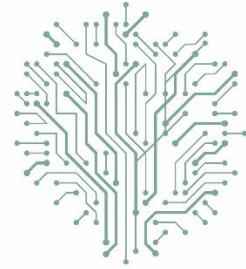
The old man confused, the junkie in gaol,
The baby all bruised- a victim so frail;
Good things go wrong, we try and we fail
Over and over again. CHORUS

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



SALTBUSH
UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Mark 1:29-39
Acting with Authority

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>

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

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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? Where do you see the reign of God acting in your life?
- I wonder what you heard in the Word for our church? How do we share the Good News of God's love, justice and peace with a hurting world?
- 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.

- 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](#) 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.