

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)

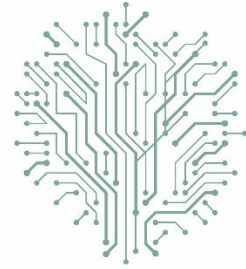
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where e'er we go. (chorus)

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Malcolm Gordon



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Luke 9:51-62
Set Our Face

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.

We find in Jesus the one who embodies you, who is an
expression of your love, but his intensity can be
overwhelming.

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

**Yet, in you O Christ, we look and we find life, mercy,
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 9:51-62

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- What are your distractions from encountering God in the moment?
- What do you do in being aware of the presence of God?
- As a church what creative ways can we celebrate the presence of God?

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 set our face to your will 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 set our face to your will 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 set our face to your will and care for others.**

(pause)

In this time of silence, we bring you our prayers. **May always journey with you.**

(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**