

Carry the Dream

Our God of hope - help us to dream
Beyond the shores - of where we've been
Our God of light - of brave new life
Our living stream - help us to dream

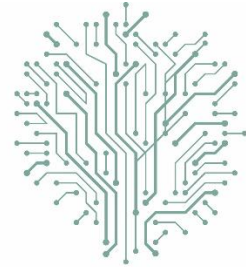
With the rich and the refugee (carry the dream)
With the lost on an angry sea (carry the dream)
With the prisoner in front of me
Carry the dream
With the brave on the freedom march (carry the dream)
With the tired and cold of heart (carry the dream)
With the poet who strikes the spark
Carry the dream
With the prophets who shake the door (carry the dream)
Who speak of love as the higher law (carry the dream)
With every pilgrim who came before
Carry the dream

Our God of flight - free us to fly
Beyond the fear - that chain's so tight
Our God of spring - sweet earth's release
Help us to dream - our God of peace

refrain

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Beyond the shores - of where we've been
Our God of light - of brave new life
Our living stream - help us to dream
By John Coleman

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2026 Saltbush Community Minister



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Worship for the Scattered Christian Community

Matthew 18:21-35
Forgiveness: A Sacred Gift

Acknowledgement and Welcome

As we gather, we acknowledge the (name of First nations people) who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We pay our respects to elders' past, present and emerging.

Grace, hope and peace, in the name of God the Eternal presence, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Responses & Gathering Prayer

We gather, maybe feeling uncertain about why we are here.

We might be struggling with feelings of guilt or shame. Conflicted by our unloving actions, or our hatred and anger to others.

We gather, unsure if we can ever change.

As we gather, may we know, that no matter how we feel, the immensity of God's forgiveness brings us to places of freedom and wholeness. Our circumstances can change, as we journey in the hope of being reconciled with ourselves, with others and the whole creation. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Song:

[Carry the Dream](#) by John Coleman

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/carry-the-dream>

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 18:21-35 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- I wonder where you need forgiveness today or where you need to forgive another?
- I wonder where you think the church needs forgiveness.
- What one action can you or your church take to be reconciled with others?

Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

Prayers for Others

Merciful Creator, as you nurture our lives and grow us in your ways of wisdom and understanding through your Spirit and in the person of Jesus Christ, may we be always open to your leading and receptive of your grace. May we know your works in our life, your forgiveness that frees us, through Christ. Amen.

(pause)

For those who are powerless and weighed down by the injustices they experience each day as they are judged by race, class and religion. **May we work alongside you for the sake of justice and reconciliation.**

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess. **May we honour the work of your hands and work with you for the renewal of all creation.**

(pause)

That we hear our need for forgiveness from the First Nations people of Australia, in the hope of reconciliation. **May your mercy free us to be honest and humble as we explore this challenging way.**

(pause)

We know you are with those who are experiencing difficult days in our communities, may we be free to share our lives with them also. **May we all know your healing actions through the power of your Spirit.**

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

Song for Reflection:

[Waiting for the Dawn](https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/waiting-for-the-dawn) by Malcolm Gordon
<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/waiting-for-the-dawn>

Closing Responses & Blessing

May God the Creator reshape our hearts;
may Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, always speak into our lives; and may the Holy Spirit unite us in the bond of peace.

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