

Drawn from the Grass

Drawn from the grass that grows by the stream
Blow right through me Lord
Slow baked in the oven till we're no longer green
Blow right through me Lord

Blow through me Lord
Blow through me Lord

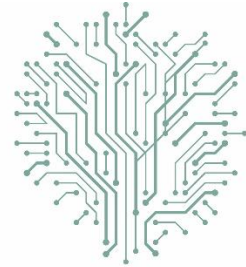
All that's not needed is trimmed right away
Blow right through me Lord
Sound holes are carved so the music can play
Blow right through me Lord

You get me up in the morning and play me all day
Blow right through me Lord
Give me rest in the evening it's a very long day
Blow right through me Lord

May the notes that blow through me be constant and sweet
Blow right through me Lord
So they lift up the hearts of the people we meet
Blow right through me Lord
John Coleman

May the Feet of God

May the feet of God walk with you and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you and his ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you and his breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home.
Robin Mann and Dorothy Mann



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Matthew 20:1-16
God Chooses Grace

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.

Gathering Prayer

Loving God.
Your grace is immeasurable and eternal.
You gift us with hope, love and mercy.
In Jesus we encounter the one who is an expression of your compassion, by your Holy Spirit we are nurtured and empowered.
Remind us that your grace and mercy is available to all.
Remind us that you love the world, not just those who feel they deserve it more than others.
Remind us that you choose grace, despite our objections.
In Christ. Amen

Song

[Drawn from the Grass.](https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/drawn-from-the-grass) John Coleman
<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/track/drawn-from-the-grass>

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 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Message

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

Questions for conversation

- When have you felt that you deserved more than others for your faithfulness? When have you felt that God was acting unfairly
- What ways has your church shared God's love with those it felt the most undeserving?

Silence

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Simply be still and open to God.

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.

Equip us O God to be bearers of the Gospel.

(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.

(pause)

For the planet and all living things that fight for survival against the insatiable plunder of human excess.

(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.

(pause)

In this time of silence we bring you our prayers.

(pause)

In Christ, Amen.

Song for Reflection:

[May the Feet of God](https://robinmann.bandcamp.com/track/may-the-feet-of-god-walk-with-you) by Robin Mann

<https://robinmann.bandcamp.com/track/may-the-feet-of-god-walk-with-you>

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go from here, journey with the God who walks with you and calls you to a deeper truth.

Go with open hearts and minds, knowing the Spirit of God abides in you.

And may you be voices of wisdom, your actions standing for justice and peace, bearers of hope for a hungry world.

May you know the Reign of God and share it with all others.

In the name of the One who abides in us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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