

## 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

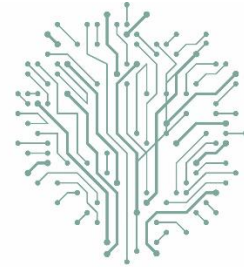
All that's not needed is trimmed right away  
Blow right through me Lord  
Sound holes are carved so the music can play  
Blow right through me Lord

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



# SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Matthew 22:1-14  
Afflicting the Comfortable

## 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.

## Gathering Prayer

God of Life, Messiah of Hope,  
We journey with you, not always feeling sure or secure of where you are leading.  
Yet we follow as you have shown us the way of love, truth, compassion and acceptance.  
You stand against the corrupt and abusive powers and call out the systems of injustice. You comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.  
May your Spirit move in our lives empowering us to stand alongside the exploited, the vulnerable and dispossessed.  
God who walks with us, Jesus Messiah, Spirit who is always present, we journey with you.  
Amen.

## Song:

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 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.”

## The Message

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

## Questions for conversation

- What injustices have you experienced that you have been compelled to challenge?
- What injustices has your church spoken out against?
- What one action can you or your church take in response to the systems of neglect and abuse found in our society?

## 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](#) 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**