



Welcome. We are a group of  
**F**riends **E**xploring **A**nd **S**haring **T**ogether,  
we invite you to join us as we wonder, reflect, and get  
curious about the gifts of life and all its big questions.

We each come as we are – there is no preaching, no  
pressure here, only the warmth of welcome, the hope of  
honest connection, and the joy of being in community.

Each week we will follow the same gentle rhythm:

**F**riends gather, faces both familiar and fresh.  
**E**xploring scripture, poems, and songs of the season.  
**A**nd receiving, we open our heads and hearts to God.  
**S**haring stories, and the gifts around and within us.  
**T**ogether we listen, learn and grow as community.

Whether you have come on your own seeking answers, or  
because a friend invited you, please know that there is a place  
set especially for you around this table, and at

**FEAST.**



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## **Week 5 – The gift of Encounter**

### **Friends**

- What makes you feel most “at home” in a place or with people?

### **Exploring**

- What insights into unexpected encounters does this poem give you?
- What word, phrase, or sentence first caught your attention within this passage of scripture?

**And** ... as you listen to the song, take the time to listen to your head and heart, notice what memories, longings, or hopes stir within, those moments of Encounter.

### **Sharing**

- What encounters, joyful or difficult, have shaped your memories of Christmas?
- How might we help others in our communities to experience the best “gifts of encounter” this Christmas?
- Who do you go to encounter “God with you” moments?

### **Together**

- Remember to notice and name the presence of God in each and every moment of this week

**F**riends, as bearers of light, may we

**E**xplore the gifts of Christ’s presence.

**A**nd receiving this love made near, may we

**S**hare that joy with all that we meet, as

**T**ogether we encounter God in people and places. **Amen**

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