



Welcome. We are a group of
Friends **E**xploring **A**nd **S**haring **T**ogether,
and we are so pleased to welcome you to this Gifted Table.

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

Each week we follow this simple rhythm, as we learn to listen deeply to each other, and to God

- **Friends** (5–10 mins): Welcome, and a simple icebreaker.
- **Exploring** (10–15 mins): Words or phrases that stand out.
- **And** (5–6 mins): Receiving the gift of wondering.
- **Sharing** (15–20 mins): Conversations, stories, and a possible creative task.
- **Together** (10 mins): Sending and singing.

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

We do hope to see you again, and that through **G**race,
Invitation, **F**aith, **T**ransformation, **E**ncounter, and **D**iscovery,
we will celebrate this season as **FEAST**.



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John 1:1-14 NRSV *The Word Became Flesh*

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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Week 1 – The gift of Grace

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Love Came Down at Christmas (1885)

**Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.**

**Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?**

**Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.**

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**Have yourself a merry little
Christmas
Let your heart be light
From now on
Our troubles will be out of sight**

**Have yourself a merry little
Christmas
Make the Yule-tide gay
From now on
Our troubles will be miles away**

**Here we are as in olden days
Happy golden days of yore
Faithful friends who are dear to
us
Gather near to us once more**

**Through the years we all will be
together
If the fates allow
Hang a shining star upon the
highest bough
And have yourself a merry little
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