



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 3 – The gift of Faith

Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007)
First Coming (2005)

He did not wait till the world was
ready,
till men and nations were at
peace.
He came when the Heavens were
unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for
release.

He did not wait for the perfect
time.
He came when the need was deep
and great.
He dined with sinners in all their
grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were
pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished
world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished
shame
he came, and his Light would not
go out.

He came to a world which did not
mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its
scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made
Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is
sane
to raise our songs with joyful
voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our
pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice!
Rejoice!

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**Mary, did you know that your baby
boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby
boy
Would save our sons and
daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will
soon deliver you**

**Mary, did you know that your baby
boy
Will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby
boy
Will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby
You kiss the face of God
Mary, did you know?**

**The blind will see, the deaf will
hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will
speak, the praises of the Lamb**

**Mary, did you know that your baby
boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby
boy
Would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is
the great, I Am
Mary, did you know?**

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